

Medieval Settlement Research Group



Annual Report 20, 2005

Medieval Settlement Research Group

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The MSRG 2005 AGM and winter seminar

This will take place at 11.00am on Saturday 2nd December 2006, in the Seminar Room, McDonald Institute, Downing Site, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3DZ. The seminar will take place after the AGM.

JOHN HURST MEMORIAL PRIZE

The new annual award in memory of John Hurst

The Medieval Settlement Research Group is dedicated to enhancing our understanding of the rural landscape and its settlement in the period c. AD 400-1600. The late John Hurst was a major figure in the development of the Group and in his honour, and to encourage new and young scholars, an annual prize of £200 is offered for the best Masters dissertation on any theme in the field of medieval settlement and landscape exploitation in Britain and Ireland. MA directors in Archaeology, English Local History, Landscape Studies or related fields are encouraged to submit high quality complete dissertations by students in the academic year 2005-6 to the Secretary of the MSRG by 31st December 2006. A panel will judge the entries and an award made at the end of March 2007. A summary of the winning entry may also be published in the Group's Annual Report.

CONFERENCES

The MSRG Spring 2007 Conference

The MSRG Spring Weekend Conference 2007 will take place in Manchester over 2 days. A flier with further details and an application form is included with this report.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The group can make grants up to a maximum of £500 annually for the support of research by members of the Group within its field of interest. Preference will normally be given to field survey, documentary research and preparation of graphics rather than to excavation and the preparation of reports for publication. A summary report of the work will be required within a year and, subject to editorial consideration, may be published in the Annual Report.

Applicants should reply by letter (4 copies) summarising the proposed research and the costs involved. Mention should be made of other applications for funding. The names of two referees should be included. Letters should be addressed to the Treasurer (Dr. R. E. Glasscock, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP). To be received by 1st December in the year preceding that in which work will be carried out. Applicants will normally be notified of the outcome in the following March.

Recent research grants have been awarded to:

Dr Helen Hamerow – £500 towards drawing work on materials from the Saxon cemetery at Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

Dr Howard Williams – £494 towards survey work at the shrunken medieval village site at Stokenham, Devon.

ANNUAL REPORT 21, 2006

The next Annual Report of the Medieval Settlement Research Group will include research, fieldwork and excavation undertaken during 2006, to be submitted to the editor, Carenza Lewis, by the end of May 2007. Please note:

1. Space is limited so your report should be as concise as possible.
 - Please keep fieldwork reports down to 250 words and excavation reports to 500 words unless the work is of a scale to necessitate a longer format - for example reports on major projects or regional surveys.
 - Short articles should be focused on topics relevant to the interests of the Group and may summarise work in a region not hitherto properly represented in the Annual Reports, contribute to current debate, or bring to the attention of members new information or research. Please note that the Group's core interests exclude urban, ecclesiastical or fortified sites unless related to rural settlement.
2. It is the responsibility of contributors to ensure that they have copyright of all material submitted.
3. Contributions should be typewritten and double-spaced. References to sites in Britain should be accompanied by their National Grid References (2 letter, 6 figures), the local government area and both the current county name and the pre-1974 county name (in brackets), if different. Copy in electronic format can be submitted on disc or emailed to crl29@cam.ac.uk.
4. Images should be supplied as hard copy. Illustrations should be in black ink on either white paper or drafting medium. Originals are preferred but high quality photographic copies are also acceptable. If it is necessary to send zeroxes please make sure that these are of the highest possible standard. Dye-line copies reproduce poorly and should be avoided if possible. All illustrations should be capable of reproduction to either column or page width. Contributors are asked to check that small details (hachuring, stipple and lettering) are capable of such small reproduction. Clear photographs are welcome.
5. Measurements should be in metric units.
6. Bibliographical details should be quoted in full. For articles in journals the title, date, volume number and inclusive pages are required. In the case of books, date and place of publication should be cited in addition to the author and title.

Obituary – Maurice Beresford

by Christopher Dyer

In 1945 the young warden of an adult education centre in Rugby was planning the visible traces of medieval fields (ridge and furrow) at Bittesby in Leicestershire. He came to an area of irregular grass-covered mounds and hollows, and after initial puzzlement realised that he was looking at the remains of the streets and houses of the village of Bittesby, abandoned for 450 years. This discovery, followed by the recognition of hundreds of other deserted villages, began the academic career of Maurice Beresford, who has died at the age of 85.

Beresford was born on 6 February 1920 on the northern fringes of Birmingham. He attended Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in Sutton Coldfield, and intended to take a degree in English Literature, but after a disappointing examination result rapidly converted to history, in which he gained a first from Cambridge in 1941. He encountered the idea that history could be seen 'on the ground' from John Saltmarsh, a lecturer who took students to look at fields in Cambridgeshire villages. Beresford was inspired by maps, and through them the historic landscape. An early piece of research into Sutton Coldfield revealed unusual field patterns in the 16th and 17th centuries, and he went on to demonstrate by comparing aerial photographs with early detailed maps that the narrow strips cultivated in the open fields were still visible as ridge and furrow.

Beresford combined the evidence of documents, maps and physical remains to find the sites of former villages in Warwickshire, and then pursued the research over the whole of England. Hundreds of villages which had flourished in the middle ages had ceased to exist by the 16th century. In 1954 his book, *The Lost Villages of England*, argued that they were depopulated because of the expansion of sheep farming, the enclosure of fields, and the eviction of villagers by acquisitive landlords, as testified by writers from Sir Thomas More to William Shakespeare.

In 1948 Beresford had been appointed to a lectureship in economic history at the University of Leeds, and while researching and writing *Lost Villages* he visited Wharram Percy, a spectacular deserted village on the Yorkshire Wolds near Malton.

He dug some holes there in 1950 and 1951, mainly to show that the 'bumps in fields' really marked the foundations of abandoned houses. This attracted the attention of the young John Hurst, soon to be an inspector with the Ministry of Works (later English Heritage), and destined to be a key medieval archaeologist. Beresford and Hurst ran an annual summer season of excavations at Wharram for the next 40 years, and at the end of the campaign wrote a book together about the site. They coordinated

research through the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group (founded in 1952), culminating in a book, *Deserted Medieval Villages*, published in 1971. The deserted sites have continued to attract interest as they have provided a route into understanding the material life of peasant England – houses, for example – and they served as a laboratory for exploring the origin and development of villages. Beresford had set in motion an expanding field of enquiry which has transformed our views of the medieval countryside.

Throughout these activities sociability and research were closely intertwined. In the initial visits to Bittesby and Wharram, and the subsequent field work, Beresford was accompanied by friends and helpers, and both the excavations at Wharram and the wider research into deserted villages involved dozens of volunteers. He dedicated *Lost Villages* to 'my friends who walked and dug with me'. A list of collaborators, beginning in the 1940s, appears to be a 'who's who' of people who were to become experts on the medieval landscape. They were drawn into Maurice Beresford's company by his good humour, witty (and sometimes waspish) conversation and above all by his enthusiasm and broad understanding of his subject. A much larger circle felt that they knew him, because he was always dedicated to spreading the word, by means of newspaper articles, radio programmes and adult education classes. His accessible style, as in *Lost Villages*, ensured that his work was widely read.

While he devoted much energy to meetings and research outside Leeds, he made a major contribution to the life of the University. He was made a reader in 1955 and professor in 1959, and served as an effective and reforming Chairman of the School of Economic Studies, and Chairman of the Faculty Board at a challenging time at the end of the 1960s. His contributions to Senate were relished for their wit, but were also respected. He was probably seen to be too independently minded to rise to the highest level of University administration. Both within the University, as in his appearances outside, he was admired as a good communicator and a popular teacher. His lectures, though entertaining and well-illustrated with slides, tended to overrun their allotted time, partly because he could not resist making lengthy asides.

His academic interests shifted in the late 1950s. His book of local studies, *History on the Ground* (1957) used maps and field work to examine towns as well as rural subjects, and in conjunction with J.K. St Joseph, he published in 1958 an anthology of aerial photographs, *Medieval England: an Aerial Survey* which included townscapes. He focussed his work on medieval planned towns, including the bastides of

Gascony, which culminated in *New Towns of the Middle Ages* in 1967. This had made him aware of the lack of a reliable work of reference on English boroughs, and with the help of H.P.R. Finberg, he compiled a useful list which appeared in 1973. Always aware of his surroundings, and conscious of the responsibility of a university to its locality, Beresford contributed a great deal to the history of Leeds and of Yorkshire. Soon after arriving he wrote a history of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce, and he supported the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and the Thoresby Society. Ever concerned with the mappable past, he provided the British Association, in collaboration with Glanville Jones, the historical geographer, with a book on Leeds and its region in 1967, and was already engaged on a study of the building of Leeds, showing how fields were converted into streets of housing in the 19th century. A small scale beginning was *Walks Round Red Brick*, dealing with the streets taken over by the University, and then a study of the whole town appeared as *East End, West End* in 1988.

Beresford's time was not fully occupied by the university of the present and the villages and towns of the past. He served on committees, councils and commissions relevant to his academic interests, and

was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. His list of 'recreations' consisted of 'music, theatre, maps and delinquency'. The latter ironic comment refers lightly to a lifetime dedicated to public service, focussed on the welfare of prisoners and especially young offenders, which began in his student days, and continued through membership of committees reviewing parole, probation and treatment of delinquency. He taught prisoners, befriended them, and offered them help.

Maurice Beresford should be remembered as an innovative and lively historian, an able administrator, a well-liked teacher, and a citizen with a strongly developed social conscience. To those who knew him the enduring impression is of a rather awkward and slightly shabby figure, accompanied by a mongrel dog (notably Lulu and Sheba). He was always full of conversation, which was learned and witty, revealing a close interest in people. That warm and humane sympathy informed his judgements of the past as well as his relationships with academics, students, diggers, and prisoners.

Maurice Warwick Beresford, economic historian, born February 6 1920; died 15 December 2005

The Medieval Village in 'Woodland' and 'Champion' Landscapes Report on the MSRG 2005 SPRING CONFERENCE

by Sue Oosthuisen

The MSRG annual spring conference on 'The Medieval Village in 'Woodland' and 'Champion' Landscapes' at Wolfson College, Cambridge over the weekend of 9-10 April 2005 was attended by about 170 people. Six excellent speakers, ably chaired by Mark Gardiner, offered a good range of interesting papers on Saturday 9th April, followed by an excursion first to Pampisford, led by Christopher Taylor, and then to Eltisley, led by Peter Warner, on Sunday 10th April. Local archaeological and historical societies exhibited at the conference, and stands were also put up by Oxbow Books and Windgather Press, displays and books all contributing to a lively and well-paced event.

The question at the heart of the conference was the interplay between physical geography and human culture in forming medieval landscapes. A fascinating series of papers approached the question from a number of different directions, in an illuminating day. The conference began with a paper from Stuart Wrathmell on 'Regional Diversity in the Study of Medieval Rural Settlement'. This was the first opportunity for many in the region to hear about Dr Wrathmell's work with Brian Roberts, mapping rural settlement in Britain from the nineteenth-century first edition Ordnance Survey maps. Their endeavour has confirmed and added more detail to the maps of H. L. Gray and Oliver Rackham, which had indicated that nucleated settlement and common fields were most usually found in southern-central Britain. Southern central Britain was indeed a 'champion' landscape, the Central Province. The additional analysis offered from Roberts and Wrathmell demonstrates that the Central Province is a mosaic of variations around nucleation and common-field agriculture, including pockets of dispersal.

Christopher Taylor followed, with a characteristically stimulating paper on 'Landscape History, Observation and Explanation: The Missing Houses in Cambridgeshire Villages'. Topographical analysis of many settlements on the basis of relatively modern maps can only go so far in reconstructing medieval settlements and the processes effecting settlement history. Essential additions are an understanding of the geological and geographical conditions underlying settlements – like the waterlogged hummocky ground formed where springs flow over relatively flat contours, creating large marshy areas which are difficult to plough and therefore better suited to pasture; past patterns of tenure; and an investigation into the gaps between apparently polyfocal or dispersed settlements which may reveal

shrunk settlements. Using the examples of Little Shelford and Pampisford, Christopher Taylor demonstrated that the medieval plans and origins of these villages were related to a complex interrelationship of huge greens or commons lying just below the spring line and the arable land beyond.

The final paper of the morning, 'Does the Landscape Add Up?' was offered by Dr Tony Brown, in a masterly reprise of the method which he had developed combining the fieldwork techniques of landscape history with careful analysis of the very brief notes on tenure and cultivation recorded in Domesday Book. In Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Leicestershire, for example, it is possible to reconstruct the number of tenants in a vill and the size of their holdings in 1086. By relating this analysis to reconstructions of the early field systems of a vill, it is possible to hypothesise about the origin and development of field systems and settlement in a parish. The techniques, although detailed, are accessible to all, as are the sources, and it was particularly welcome to have them so clearly explained.

After an excellent cold lunch provided by the College, the conference reconvened for the afternoon session. The second set of papers began with Peter Warner on 'Greens, Commons and Clayland Colonization 20 Years On – and Reflections on (in) Moats'. Building on his work in Suffolk, Peter Warner noted the features of clayland colonisation around large greens – many bounded by ditches and associated with medieval moated sites. This landscape is characteristic not only of Suffolk – outside the Central Province – but also of Cambridgeshire which is set within it, and the interplay of geography and human agency in forming landscapes was an important thread picked up again here.

The question of the influences on landscape formation was also at the heart of Glenn Foard's paper on 'The Historic Landscape of Rockingham Forest: Creating a Digital Atlas'. The Rockingham Forest Project created detailed digital mapping from a wide range of sources to reveal that the landscape underlying the Forest had been extensively replanned in the late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods. The project indicated that physical geography was the primary determinant of land-use, but administrative units controlled how land-use was structured. This explained why adjacent parishes often followed quite different trajectories of landscape use and development.

The conference came to a sparkling conclusion with Tom Williamson's paper on 'Woodland and Champion: Farming Environment and Landscape' which summarised the arguments of his recently-published *Shaping Medieval Landscapes*. He argued that the restricted opportunities for ploughing on clayland soils – often either too wet or too dry for cultivation – together with a shortage of meadows for hay and grazing were the primary factors behind the development of classic commonfield systems in the Central Province. In East Anglia, for example, despite the widespread presence of open fields, classic commonfields did not develop because the peaty river valleys offered plentiful grazing and meadowland for each community. In the Central Province, men and women needed to co-ordinate their ploughing, reaping and haymaking, often at very short notice, and nucleation was the best strategy to achieve this.

The following day approximately 50 people participated in the excursions, a number which would have been higher if larger groups could have been accommodated. The day centred around the questions of the interplay of physical geography and human agency in two very different localities – one on the wide flat floor of the Cam valley, and the other on the heights of the ridges which form that river's watershed. In the morning, Christopher Taylor led participants around the settlement at Pampisford

(South Cambridgeshire) which he had described to the conference the previous day. Here, where the waterlogged gault clays of the Cam valley floor meet the rising chalks of the Chilterns, the springs at the base of the chalk flowed out over the gault, creating characteristically hummocky ground. Early medieval settlement in Pampisford was dispersed and appears to have been particularly focused on the interface between this land, whose characteristics made it unsuitable for ploughing and available for pasture, and the arable fields beyond. Planned settlement was a later development of the late eleventh century.

After a pleasant picnic lunch in Pampisford Village Hall, the excursion travelled to Eltisley (West Cambridgeshire) in the afternoon. Here, on the clayland plateau on one of the highest points of west Cambridgeshire, another type of green-side landscape was explored. Eltisley lies around a planned triangular green, whose features are characteristic of clayland colonisation – a green surrounded by waterfilled ditches, and attended by a number of medieval moated sites, occupied by spectacular late medieval buildings. The intriguing question here was the age of the colonisation – the parish church (and its holy well) is dedicated to St Panidionia, and may be a relic of a pre-Conquest nunnery of which no other trace has survived. The two excursions provided a fitting end to an excellent conference weekend.

Test pit excavation within occupied settlements in East Anglia in 2005

by Carenza Lewis

(Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge)

This paper introduces a new project which is focussing on the archaeological investigation of medieval rural settlements which are still inhabited, and summarises the results of work of four sites in the first year of the project.

Although rural settlement has long been a core area of research for medieval archaeology, attention until recently has focussed largely on deserted (or extensively shrunken) nucleated villages, with currently-occupied rural settlements (hereafter CORS) tending to be either neglected or subject only to non-invasive investigation such as plan analysis, earthwork survey or documentary research (Lewis et al 2001). Sub-surface investigation is in most cases reactive and limited to observations or minor excavations carried out in advance of small-scale development. In many cases these fail to record any evidence for medieval activity. Despite the recent energetic intellectual expansion of rural settlement studies to encompass the study of CORS in projects such as Shapwick (Aston and Gerrard 1999) and Whittlewood (Dyer, 1999; Page and Jones 2000; Jones and Page 2001; 2003a; 2003b) it still remains true that many more deserted and shrunken medieval settlements have benefited from proactive archaeological excavation that is the case for currently-inhabited sites. This problem is compounded, of course, by the fact that most medieval settlements were not permanently abandoned, so that the majority of our evidence is at present derived from a minority subset of medieval settlements – deserted and very shrunken sites. CORS also, of course cover significant extents of land where little is known about the archaeology from any period. In 2005 a new project from the University of Cambridge linked the need to expand our knowledge of CORS with the apparently unconnected need to raise the numbers of young people going to university. The resultant Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme was piloted in 2005 when excavation was carried out in four CORS in East Anglia by nearly 150 secondary school pupils.

The concept of the HEFA project as one which could jointly pursue both educational and research objectives developed out of a widening-participation programme run begun by the author from the University of Cambridge Department of Archaeology in 2004. The success of this suggested that it might be possible to develop a more ambitious scheme which could give participants the chance not just to increase their enthusiasm for education at higher levels, but also to acquire and develop, in a more sustained and substantial way, some of the skills, experience,

motivation and confidence needed to succeed in actually fulfilling their newly-raised ambitions. Such a scheme would give participants the chance to complete, from start to finish, a piece of independent original work, of a type completely new to them, which would involve the learning of new skills, employing a range of different learning methods, including practical, technical and analytical skills, and culminate in a formally-assessed written element which would provide enduring and tangible evidence of achievement. It was also considered vital that such work should have real academic value, to allow participants to develop confidence in their abilities to cope and contribute at undergraduate level. The work-scheme should require no previous knowledge or experience, thus placing all participants on an equal initial footing.

Archaeology is well-placed to provide programmes which can meet the requirements of both educational/outreach and academic/research agendas without compromising the needs of either, and it seemed apparent that the research and educational agendas outlined above could be pursued jointly in the excavation of test pits within CORS. This could provide archaeologically-desirable short-term team-based project work that could be carried out with a degree of independence by those with no previous archaeological experience. The latter point had been demonstrated in previous test-pit excavations by members of the public, (Lewis 2003; Taylor 2003; Cooper and Priest 2003) which had demonstrated that archaeologically-inexperienced people could, provided with appropriate support, carry out test pit excavations which would yield useful results with a day or two's digging. Funds to develop and trial the HEFA scheme was provided by the Higher Education Academy and Aimhigher, a national organisation tasked with raising university participation rates amongst currently under-represented groups; and in 2005 a pilot series of three HEFA courses took place involving pupils from Cambridgeshire schools. Following the successful completion of these, a fourth HEFA took place in Hertfordshire, with 13 more requested across East Anglia in 2006 and more planned for subsequent years.

Methodology¹

Setting up and running the HEFA scheme successfully inevitably requires a number of different educational, archaeological and logistical goals to be met. Aimhigher staff liaise with schools to recruit suitable pupils with high academic ability but about whose progression to higher education there is doubt,



Plate 1: Test pit TSC/05/05 Terrington St Clement under excavation, with HEFA students and teacher wielding a range of tools used by them to conduct their test pit excavation

usually because there is no prior experience on higher education amongst close family members. Sites for investigation by HEFA must be geographically within target areas where progression to university is low. Once these are established, HEFA works through contacts both within and beyond the archaeological profession, particularly through local museums and/or rural historical or archaeological societies, to find a coordinator in that area who is willing and able to arrange access for excavation to a number of different properties within a CORS well-known to them. This settlement must be considered likely to have been in existence in some form or other in the medieval period for it to be a suitable candidate. In most cases, the presence of at least one building of medieval date (usually a church) is adequate, but this is by no means essential. Relying primarily on educational and practical criteria to select CORS for HEFA investigation effectively provides a randomising mechanism within the sampling strategy.

Pupils excavate their test pit under adult (but not usually archaeologically-experienced) supervision, following the instructions detailed in the HEFA Handbook, prepared within the Department of Archaeology, in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m. All but the most intractable spoil is sieved for finds using a standard mesh, and pottery and other finds are identified promptly by experts who are on site for the duration of the Field Academy and make frequent visits to each test pit, during which they also provide advice and check that the excavation is being carried out and recorded to the required standard. Once the excavation is completed, pupils draw sections, take soil samples from each context for phosphate analysis, then backfill and replace the removed turf to restore the site. Pupils are sent copies of the records they made for their test pit to enable them to write it

up, which is submitted during a follow-up day in the University of Cambridge, when a group session involves pupils in the collation, assessment and mapping of the collective results of all the test pits dug in the course of their HEFA. Submitted reports are copied and assessed in the University and the originals returned to pupils with comments and a certificate to mark their achievement in completing the course. The archaeological records, finds² and soil samples are retained by the University of Cambridge for analysis, formal writing-up, archiving and submission to SMRs and HERs, and will form the basis of further research into the origins and development of rural settlement.

Results

The Higher Education Field Academy in East Anglia in 2005 involved excavation of a series of 1-metre square test pits within the gardens and open spaces in four CORS in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Hertfordshire (figure 1). More than 130 pupils and around 40 teachers from a dozen different schools in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire were involved in the excavation of nearly 40 test pits. This report is not the place for detailed discussion of the aspirational and educational success of the HEFA project, but it should perhaps be noted that feedback was extremely positive, with 71% of pupils rating it excellent or good and 90% enjoyed it as much, more or much more than they expected to. Feedback from school staff has also been excellent. This shows that the HEFA programme is capable of providing young people and opinion-formers within education with a very positive learning experience associated with rural settlement studies, potentially an important factor in shaping attitudes in the future.

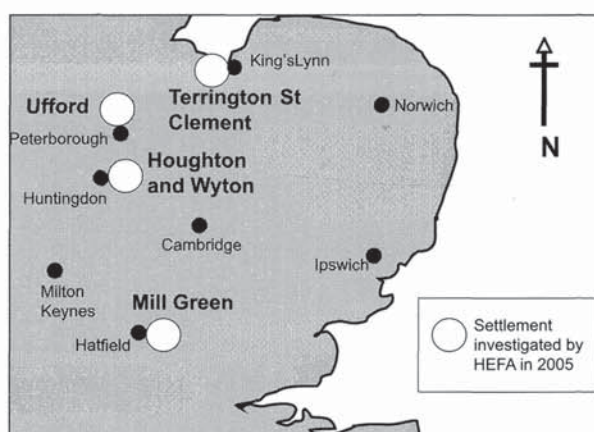


Figure 1: Location map of southern England showing the locations of the 4 CORS sites investigated by the HEFA project in 2005.

A more detailed report on the results of the HEA test pitting in these settlements, incorporating work future years, will be published in due course, but a brief summary of work in 2005 is included below.

Terrington St Clement (NGR 555180 320420)

Terrington St Clement today is a large, irregular, sprawling village around 8km west of King's Lynn in the Fenland region of west Norfolk. It lies on peat and alluvial and marine deposits at around 3m OD but now protected from inundation by a sea bank known as Roman Bank, 1km north of the church. Previously it has been subject to some historical research by local historians resident in the village (Terrington St Clement History Group 2005), while archaeological investigation has most notably included field walking during the Fenland Survey (Silvester, 1988), although this largely excluded the area around the present settlement (ibid., 36-7).

Terrington St Clement was the first site to be investigated by HEFA. A total of nine test pits were excavated in July 2005 (figure 2), one dug by one of the property owners, (at the same time and using the same HEFA handbook and recording system), the other eight were dug by 28 year 9 pupils (mostly aged 14). The main focus of HEFA attention in this large village was on the eastern side of the settlement, north and south of the church, although one 'outlier' was sited c. 1500m to the west, on the top of Roman Bank. This produced only pottery of Victorian and later date, relating to occupation of one of the cottages sites on top of the bank. Of more interest was late Anglo-Saxon pottery which was found in lower, undisturbed layers of the three test pits north of the church (TP 05/4, 05/5 and 05/8), including Thetford Ware and Stamford Ware, also found in TP 05/7 immediately

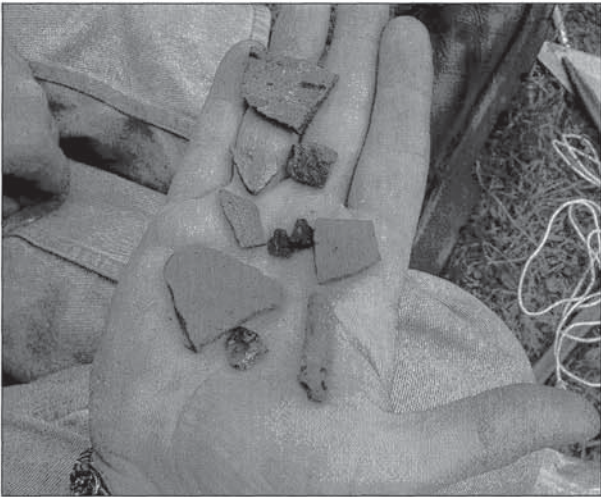


Plate 2: All finds from Terrington St Clement test pit TSC/05/07 context 7 (60-70cm below surface), including 8 sherds of Grimston Ware.

west of the church. TP 05/7 also revealed undisturbed early levels, in this case containing medieval pottery (Grimston Ware, dating to c. AD 1080 and 1400) and a floor surface with slight traces of a post hole. Undisturbed levels with Grimston Ware were also present in 05/50, south-west of the church. One very abraded sherd of Grimston Ware in TP 05/2, found 20-30cm below the surface, appears more likely to have been associated with manuring, suggesting that this northern-most part of the present village was under cultivation in the Middle Ages. None of the test

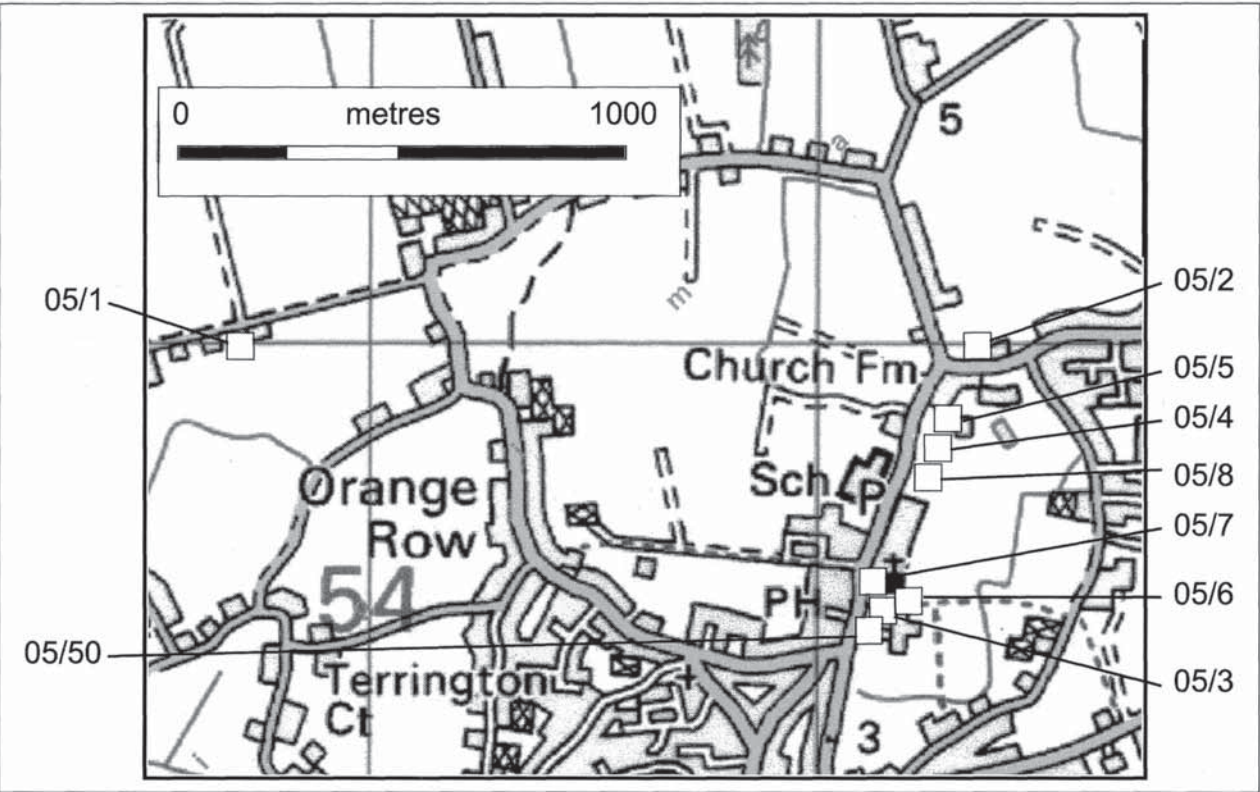


Figure 2: Terrington St Clement, Norfolk, showing the locations and numbers of the test pits excavated in July 2005.

pits north of the church produced pottery post-dating c. 1550.

Taken together, the evidence from the 2005 test pits indicates that the areas both north and south of the church were in occupation from the late Anglo-Saxon period until perhaps the later Middle Ages, possibly as a planned row settlement along the line of the present Church Street. This itself suggests that the most likely date for the construction of Roman Bank (known, despite the name, not to be Roman as these levels are buried beneath c. 2m of post-Roman silts) is around the 9th or 10th century AD, as occupation north of the church would not have been possible before the construction of the bank. Further HEFA-derived work in the future in Terrington St Clement will aim to investigate other parts of the village including looking at possible manorial sites within the area of the current settlement.

Ufford (NGR 509380 304080)

Ufford today is a small linear village lying on limestone at between 21m and 46m OD, approximately 10km north-west of Peterborough. Prior to HEFA, the only known archaeological finds comprised a concentration of Roman material,

including a silver spoon, discovered casually by the landowner in an arable field south-west of the church (recorded in the SMR for Peterborough Unitary Authority). The history of Ufford was reviewed in an early volume of the Victoria County History (Serjeantson and Adkins 1906) and more recently, in a less academic format, by a local resident (Gosling 2000).

Fourteen test pits were dug by HEFA pupils in Ufford in September 2005. Roman pottery, abraded and clearly derived from ploughsoil, were discovered in the upper levels of TPs 05/12 and 05/13 in the south of the village near to the earlier find-spot of Roman material, confirming occupation at this date in this most elevated part of the settlement. Evidence for activity in the late Anglo-Saxon period came from opposite ends of the village, including a couple of sherds of Stamford Ware from TP 05/7, in the garden of Ufford Farm at the far northern extremity of the present settlement. Although these came from relatively high levels which also produced pottery of Victorian and later date, their presence is nonetheless potentially significant, and this area will be investigated further in the future. Particularly notable also was the absence of any evidence for occupation



Figure 3: Ufford, Peterborough Unitary Authority, showing the locations and numbers of the test pits excavated in September 2005.



Plate 3: Test pit UFF/05/06 in Ufford near the end of excavation, showing the section going down through natural, with one of the very enthusiastic HEFA students who worked so hard to dig this deep.

in the area east of Ufford Hall which appeared on superficial examination likely to be one of shrinkage, as it contained earthworks comprising platforms and hollows suggesting of former house sites divided by low linear features reminiscent of toft boundaries, in a block between two areas of current occupation. However, TPs 05/14, 05/6 and 05/15 all revealed the same pattern, with an almost total absence of cultural material (except for slag) above natural. In fact, none of the test pits between 05/3 and 05/7 produced any evidence for activity predating the later post-medieval. Initial inferences must include the

possibility that Ufford in the late Anglo-Saxon, and possibly right through the Middle Ages, was arranged as two separate small foci of settlement, rather existing as the planned linear village which is evident today.

Houghton and Wyton (NGR 528110 272500)

Houghton and Wyton are small villages now conjoined to form a single nucleated settlement, sited on alluvial gravel between 5m and 10m OD close to the northern banks of the River Ouse 4km east of Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. Prior to HEFA, the area had received no significant archaeological attention, although a Romano-British cemetery lies a little to the north of the village on Houghton Hill (Page et al 1932) while the history of the villages has been reviewed some time ago by the Victoria County History (ibid.).

Nine test pits were excavated by HEFA students in 2005 (figure 4), with a further two dug by children attending the primary school in the village, using the HEFA instructions and recording system to investigate sites (05/P and 05/A) within their school grounds, located west of the church in Houghton. Most attention in 2005 focused on Houghton, with further work mostly in Wyton planned for 2006. Alone of the four sites investigated by HEFA in 2005, Houghton and Wyton produced evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of struck flint, close to the river flood plain. Two of the test pits (05/4 and 05/P), also both fairly close to the edge of the flood plain, also produced Roman pottery. Late Anglo-Saxon activity in the form of Thetford Ware was

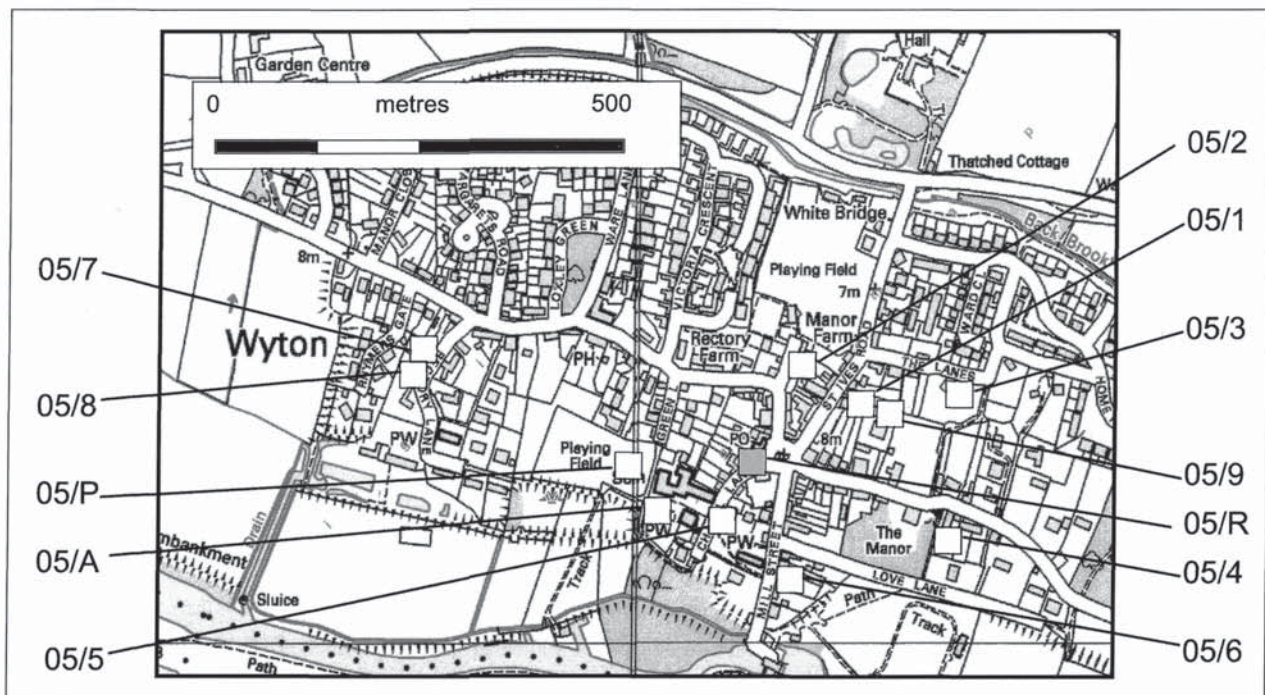


Figure 4: Houghton and Wyton, Cambridgeshire, showing the locations and numbers of the test pits excavated in September 2005.



Plate 4: Test pit HAW/05/P, excavated by primary school children and supportive adults to an excellent standard within the school grounds.

found in TP 05/5 and 05/P, and also recovered by HEFA from 05/R, a c. 1m x 1.2m hole which was rather fortuitously being dug by a local authority employee in the centre of the road leading north from the church in Houghton, while the HEFA investigations were taking place. Post-Conquest medieval pottery in the form of shelly and sandy wares, were found in the majority of the 2005 test pits (05/2, 05/3, 05/4, 05/5, 05/7, 05/8, 05/P and 05/A), although the single abraded sherd from TP 05/3 seems likely to indicate agricultural use of this north-eastern part of the present settlement rather than occupation, a suggestion apparently reinforced by the absence of medieval material from TP 05/1 or 05/9. In contrast to the large quantity of high medieval material is the paucity of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, which may hint at contraction in this period, although such a suggestion must remain very tentative, based as it is on negative evidence from a relatively small number of test pits.



Plate 5: Test pit HAW/05/04 under excavation in the back garden of a private residence in Houghton and Wyton.

Mill Green (NGR)

Mill Green is today a small hamlet, lying at c. 60m OD either side of the river Lea c. 3km north-east of Hatfield in Hertfordshire. Mill Green has no church, and its only claim to medieval antecedence comes from the presence of the eponymous mill, now a museum. Most of the surviving fabric of this structure is 18th century, although some 16th century timberwork is visible inside the building (Kirby, 1990). No earlier fabric is known, but the present building is generally considered to occupy the site of a medieval mill, one of four held by the abbot of Ely at Hatfield in Domesday Book (ibid., 2). The actual extent of any medieval occupation was however completely unknown before the HEFA investigation over the last two days of November 2005.



Plate 6: Test pits MGR/05/09 (closest to camera) and MGR/05/08 in Mill Green after excavation has been completed and pits backfilled, with the building of the mill, now a museum, visible in the background.

Undeterred by the frosty starts to each day, nine test pits were excavated by HEFA participants (figure 5). The contrast with the other HEFA sites was extreme: no pre-medieval material was recovered from any of the test pits, and only one produced any finds dating to any time within the medieval period. This comprised a single sherd of London Ware (AD1150-late C15th) which was found in the top layer of TP 05 2, a mixed context which also yielded material of post-medieval and Victorian and later date: given this, it is impossible to exclude the possibility that this sherd was brought onto this site in the relatively recent past. Even if the London Ware sherd does in

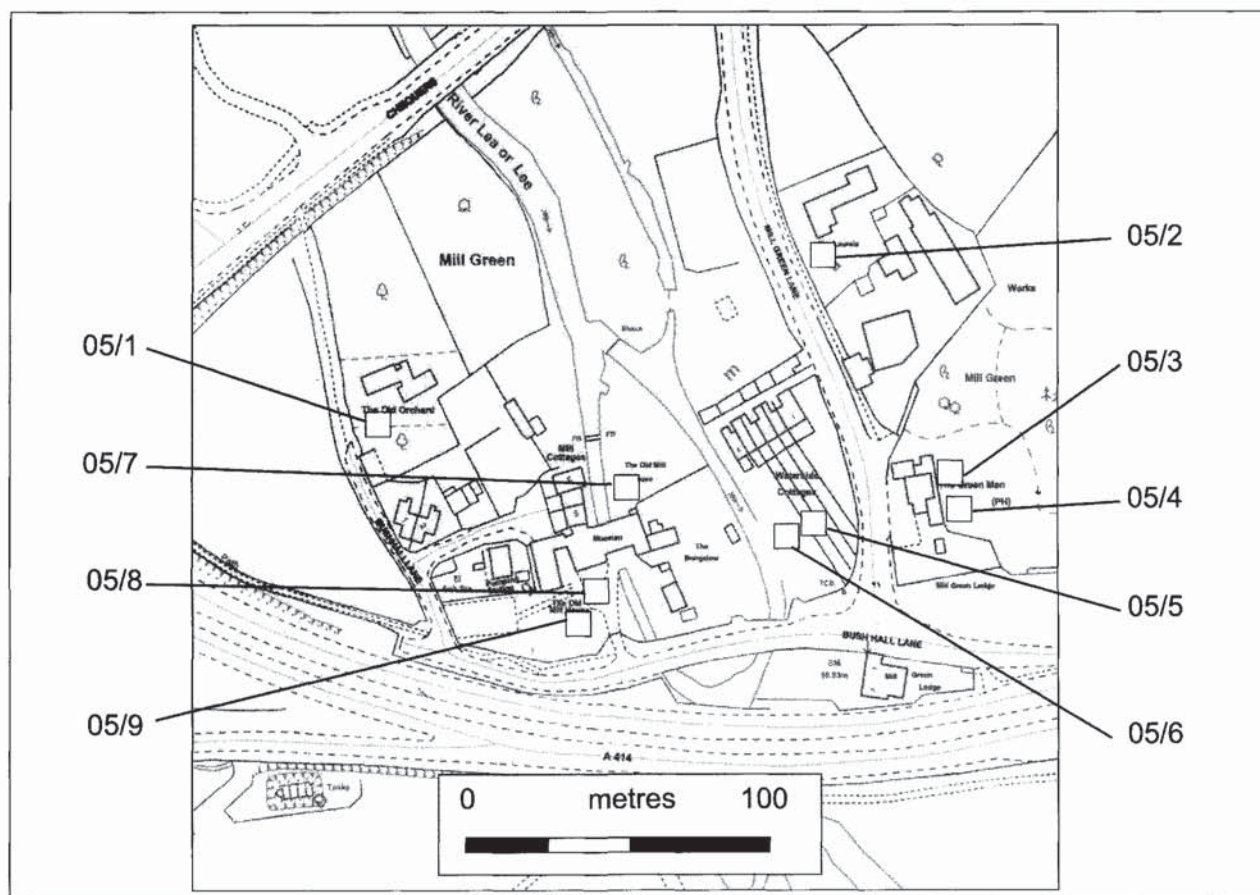


Figure 5: Mill Green, Hertfordshire, showing the locations and numbers of the test pits excavated in November 2005.

fact originally derive from the location in which it was found, it is notable that TP 05/2 is the furthest of all the 2005 test pits from the mill site itself. None of the other test pits produced any material earlier than c. 1550, a date which does of course correlate well with that of the earliest known surviving fabric of the mill building. This does not, of course, completely exclude the possibility that a mill and/or associated settlement existed here in the Middle Ages, but it must cast doubt on that assertion. However, two of the test pits did not go very deep (05/6 was inadvertently sited on top of a late Victorian/early 20th century rubbish pit, which provided a wonderful range of finds for the students, but prevented excavation to any significant depth, while 05/9 was started late in the course of the HEFA after the 05/8 team encountered natural). The possibility that excavation of further test pits might reveal more secure evidence for medieval occupation in the area can not be excluded.

Conclusions

The success of the educational and aspirational aims of the HEFA project has been demonstrated by the extremely positive feedback students have provided, which show very significant positive changes in attitudes to higher education. This feedback shows also that HEFA has provided the participants (students and teachers alike) with a very positive

experience associated with heritage, and with medieval settlement studies in particular.

In terms of archaeological results, it seems clear already that the HEFA model of test pit excavation within currently-occupied rural settlements can and does produce new and useful archaeological evidence. It has demonstrated its capability both to reveal new settlement foci (as at Ufford Farm) and question pre-existing assumptions about known settlements, both in terms of their date (eg Mill Green) and their layout (eg Ufford). Future work will build on these achievements: the test pits excavated by HEFA in 2005 are just the first in this programme of educational investigation which will continue in 2006 and beyond, both on the sites summarised above and others in Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Bedfordshire.

Acknowledgements

In a project such as this, the help of scores of people, too numerous to name here individually but without whom the project could not have proceeded, is vital, and this has been gratefully received. First and foremost, the pupils and teachers who carried out the excavation are all to be thanked for their hard work and enthusiasm for a task to which all of them were new. Thanks are also due to the owners of each and every plot of land on which a test pit was excavated, many of whom provided support and hospitality well beyond the call of duty. Special thanks must go to Gerry Feakes, Bryan Howling, Sandy Yatteau and Sarah Adamson for arranging access to numerous test pit sites in their respective settlements. Paul Blinkhorn is the pottery consultant for the

project and his knowledge, support and enthusiasm have been invaluable. While this paper has benefited hugely from discussions with all those named (and unnamed) above, any errors remain entirely my responsibility. Finally, thanks are due to the Higher Education Subject centre for Archaeology, and in particular to Aimhigher Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire for their funding of the HEFA project.

Notes

- 1 Further information about the process of test pit investigation on HEFA courses, with accompanying images, is available at <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/fa/testpits>
- 2 Finds are retained by the University of Cambridge unless their return is requested by the property owners, in which case they are returned following completion of post-excavation and analysis.

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Warrenhall and other moated sites in north-east Shropshire

by Michael Fradley

This paper reports on the location of a building in Shropshire that received a license to crenellate in 1295 which has been identified as a moated site in the medieval manor of Moreton Say in North-East Shropshire. In turn this was identified as one of a cluster of moated sites in that region, the details and significance of which will be presented below.

The moated settlement at Warrenhall

The first and only known reference to a fortified house in 'Warandashale' is the license to crenellate that was granted to Richard de 'Peulesden' (Puleston) in 1295. Several sites for this house have been postulated by recent research (Jackson 1988, 60). Although the genealogy is vague, Richard de Puleston appears to have been a member of the Puleston family who rose to prominence in Shropshire and Wales in the thirteenth century. This residence was still in the hands of the same Puleston family at the beginning of the fifteenth century, but was recorded in a document dated to 1427-8 as being forfeited by John, son of Roger of 'Pilleston?', for his taking part in the rebellion of Owain Glyn Dwr (PRO SC 6/967/28). In turn it was recorded in 1441 as having been granted to William Chetewyn (Chetwynd) for life, although he was already deceased by this date (PRO E 199/38/47).

Warensall occurs in a collection of papers dating from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century from the Cholmodeley collection (CRO DCH/O/48). The Puleston family name appears to have influenced the local landscape when in 1343 a grant of land to the north of Market Drayton bordered the 'ditch of Puleston', although a second record dating to 1336 suggests that part of the area known as 'Pulleston' was actually in the manor of Drayton (SRO 327/2/4/1/3/23; 327/2/4/1/4/30). By the seventeenth century it was described as a tenement and the name had become interchangeable with that of Rhiews (SRO 5981/B/1/114). Unlike Warrenhall this second name of Rhiews survives today as a farm with a seventeenth century timber-framed core. In a field to the east is the levelled remains of a moated site (SJ 642 374) on the edge of the River Ducklow which was almost certainly the site of the fortified residence of 'Warandashales' which appears to have been abandoned in favour of the site at Rhiews.

The Warrenhall moat has largely been levelled as part of agricultural improvements, but it was of a rectangular shape enclosing an island of about 45m by 60m. To the east is a farm called Castlehill which was postulated as a possible location for Warandashale by Jackson, but whose name probably refers to the fact that the latter site was visible from

this location and attesting to the impact of these relatively small fortified sites on the local vocabulary. Inspection of the wider landscape shows that Warrenhall was one of a distinct cluster of moated sites at Moreton Say and its neighbouring manors. The moats were established in a region of sandy subsoil in the North Shropshire Plain and are conspicuous in that moated sites are generally absent from the large adjoining estates of Adderley, Hodnet and Drayton (belonging to the Cistercian Combermere Abbey). In contrast Moreton Say and its neighbours appear to have been peripheral members of dispersed estates which were subinfeudated to or purchased by local families of rank like Richard de Puleston, and these small manors recorded as part of the Stoke-on-Tern estate.

What is noticeable about the majority of these other moated sites is that their internal islands are all roughly square and measure somewhere between 40m² and 50m². West of Warrenhall is the site of Newstead Street (40m x 45m), and beyond that Calverhall (40m x 45m) and Cloverley (40m x 48m). At Calverhall (a peripheral member of the large estate of Adderley) the chief tenants took their name from the manor and William de Calverhale was returned as a man-at-arms by the Sheriff of Shropshire and was summoned to the Great Council at Westminster (Fletcher 1889, 140). At Willaston the family were of some importance and frequently appear as witnesses to deeds. The moated island here, measuring 42m x 42m, appears to succeed a solitary motte to the south. To the north the moat at Middle Morrey measures 40m by 40m, while to the south a sub-circular moat island is of the same proportions at Stoke-upon-Tern and that at Lostford is 44m x 48m. The site at Fauls is smaller at about 35m x 35m while that at Lea Hall was about 50m x 50m. The latter two sites were part of the manor of Prees which was a large holding of the Bishops of Lichfield.

The moated sites on the periphery of these examples appear to be manorial centres and are of dimensions more in line with those of Warrenhall. At Ightfield the moat encloses an area of 44m x 60m and probably belonged to the warren family of Whitchurch who, as at Calverhall, were also returned on occasion as men-at-arms in the company of the Black Prince (Fletcher 1889, 141). Wollerton was a manor held by Shrewsbury Abbey, the moat there measuring 50m x 58m, and this site may have been part of a grange complex similar to the nearby suspected grange sites at Ridgewardine and The Lees which belonged to the same abbey on their Betton estate. The fortified manor site of Stoke-on-Tern, a much larger estate

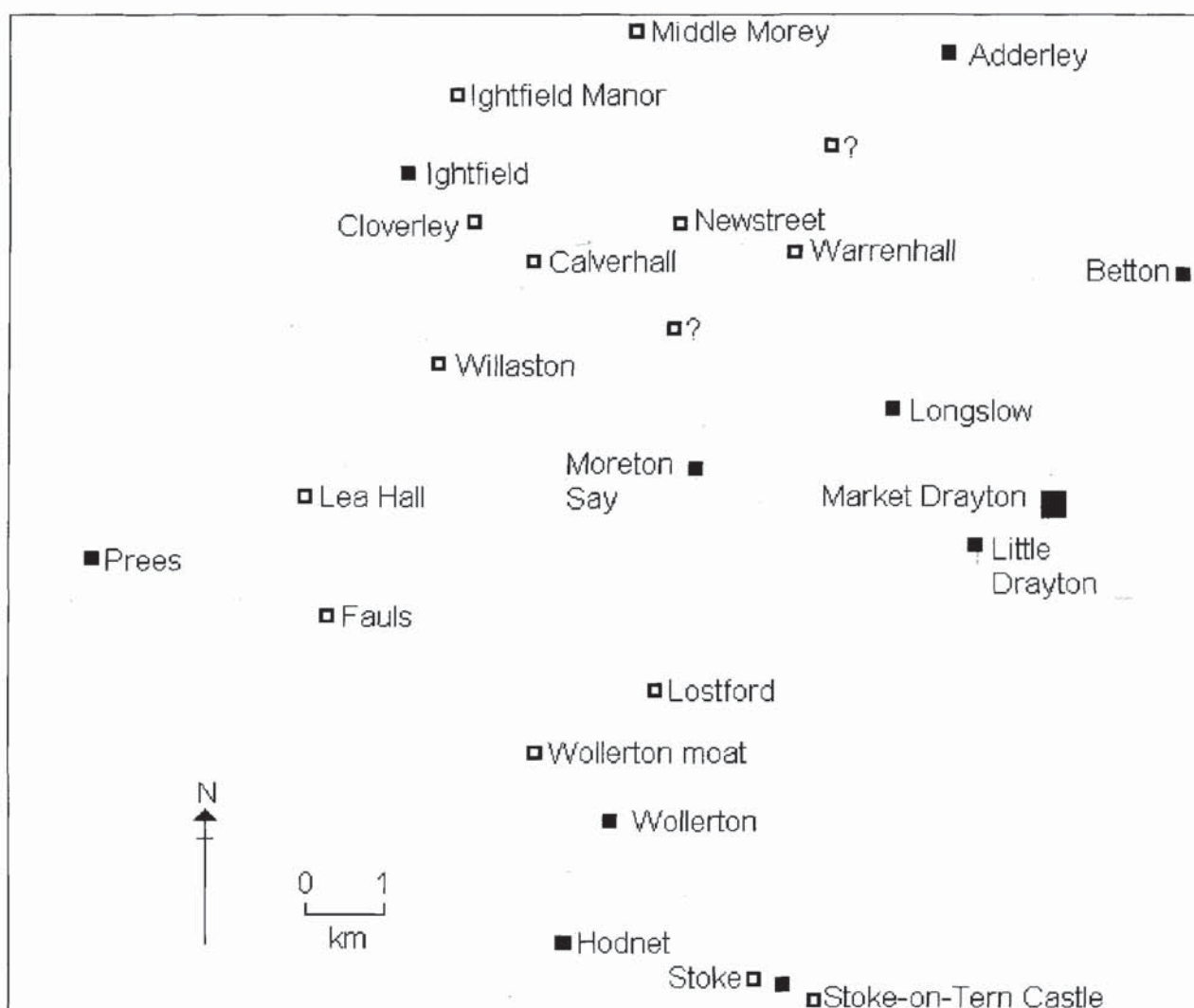


Figure 6: Location map showing moated sites and Domesday manors. Those sites marked with a question mark are unconfirmed moat sites.

centre of which Moreton Say was a member, was set on a moat of more than 80m². The size of the moat was a feature which was conspicuously displayed by these families. The moated site of Warrenhall appears to buck the general trend of smaller moats in peripheral, sub-manorial/estate units, being distinguished by its documented license to crenellate.

Conclusion

The crude pattern emerging from this preliminary, brief, non-interventional survey of moated sites in north-east Shropshire is that the size of the moated island appears to be correlated with perceived status. This suggestion must be made with the caveat that there is, of course, currently a lack of chronological evidence available for the earthwork sites examined in this case study. However, it is nonetheless notable that the largest moat at Stoke-on-Tern relates to the centre

of a large landholding estate, while below this are sites like Warrenhall, Ightfield and Wollerton which reflect the holdings of successful military men and/or landholders. Below this was a large group of generally smaller sites belonging to tenant holders of manorial and sub-manorial units.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Paul Stamper for discussing the Warrenhall site.

Abbreviations

CRO: Cheshire Records Office
SRO: Shropshire Records Office

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‘Detecting the past: interpreting early medieval settlement patterns through portable antiquities’

John Naylor & Julian D Richards (University of York)

Introduction

‘Viking and Anglo-Saxon Landscape and Economy’ (VASLE),¹ a three-year project funded by the AHRC, began in October 2004 at the University of York. VASLE is designed to develop new methods and interpretative frameworks for the study of early medieval portable antiquities, many of which have been found through the efforts of the metal-detecting community. Using artefacts and coin data provided by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and the Early Medieval Corpus (EMC) respectively, the project has several inter-related aims. These are to (1) plot national distributions of artefact types which allow us to chart social and economic development and change; (2) study settlement hierarchies by defining characteristic assemblage ‘fingerprints’; and (3) study the development and settlement morphology of specific sites through limited fieldwork.

The project is nearing the end of Aim 1, with preliminary work underway on Aim 2 and a first season of fieldwork completed on the Yorkshire Wolds. This summary will concentrate upon aspects of Aim 1 relating to the nature of data recovered through metal-detecting activity.

Identifying and assessing constraints on data recovery

One of the most important objectives has been the determination of the nature of constraints and bias in the data. A number of techniques have been developed to assess this, built around GIS-based analysis exploring the VASLE data against a range of control data and a number of base maps including the ‘constraints’ base map used here (Figure 7). This was specifically designed to illustrate where finds recovery may be problematic, limited or unduly affected by modern features, using layers for urban areas, forests, lakes, the limits of ploughzone farming, and ‘danger’ zones such as military practice areas². We have also used basic topographic mapping, comparing data to the height of land and river systems, and have produced plots of kernel density to determine areas of relatively higher concentrations of finds across the country.

In assessing the potential constraints on recovery it was decided that the best approach would utilise as many records as possible from all periods, rather than a period-specific dataset such as VASLE’s. The data for this was compiled from all material with grid references held by the PAS dating from early prehistory to the modern period, a total of 122,379 records. This gives a broad overview of metal-detected data across England and Wales into which period-specific datasets can be compared and

conclusions drawn relating to settlement patterns for certain time periods. The distribution of all PAS records (Figure 7) shows a greater concentration of finds in the south and east, especially East Anglia, Kent, North Lincolnshire and parts of Yorkshire with large numbers also visible in the central Midlands, especially Northamptonshire. In north-west England, Wales and the south-west (Devon and Cornwall) noticeably fewer finds are known. Comparing the distribution against the probable constraints on data collection (Figure 7) indicates that urbanism and the limits of ploughzone farming are the major constraints on data collection, but any area where access is restricted, including woodland and ‘danger’ zones also had a negative effect on recovery. Urbanism has a two-fold effect – there are virtually no finds made in built-up areas with little detecting able to take place and few stray finds will be visible, but conversely, clusters of finds are often made in the immediate vicinity of many towns and cities, especially larger conurbations. This can be seen as a result of most detectorists working on land relatively local to them. Across the country, most finds have been made below 100m OD, and the vast majority below 300m OD although some can be seen at this height in the southern Pennines. Historical landscape elements have also affected the patterns of finds produced with the majority of finds made dating to the period pre-AD1500. It is most obvious in areas such as the Weald, and the finds around the Wash where archaeological work has illustrated a low density of occupation for much of pre-Modern times (e.g. Everitt 1986, 54).

Figure 8 illustrates the relative concentrations of finds using kernel densities. In this case, greater density is represented by darker areas, and these are mostly confined to eastern and southern counties. A further area of high density can be seen in the Northamptonshire/Warwickshire areas, and the few outliers elsewhere simply reflect a concentration of finds at a single spot or at least over a small area. It should be noted that kernel density is lower to the north of the River Trent and west of the Pennines, in Wales, and along the Thames valley.

Topographic affects were also important. In general, increasing height results in decreasing numbers of finds, which is likely to reflect traditionally lower population densities in more highland areas. However, it must also be recognised that less archaeological research and less metal-detection takes place in these areas, especially on higher ground above the limits of the ploughzone, and interpretation, above the generalised level, may have to be undertaken on a case by case basis.

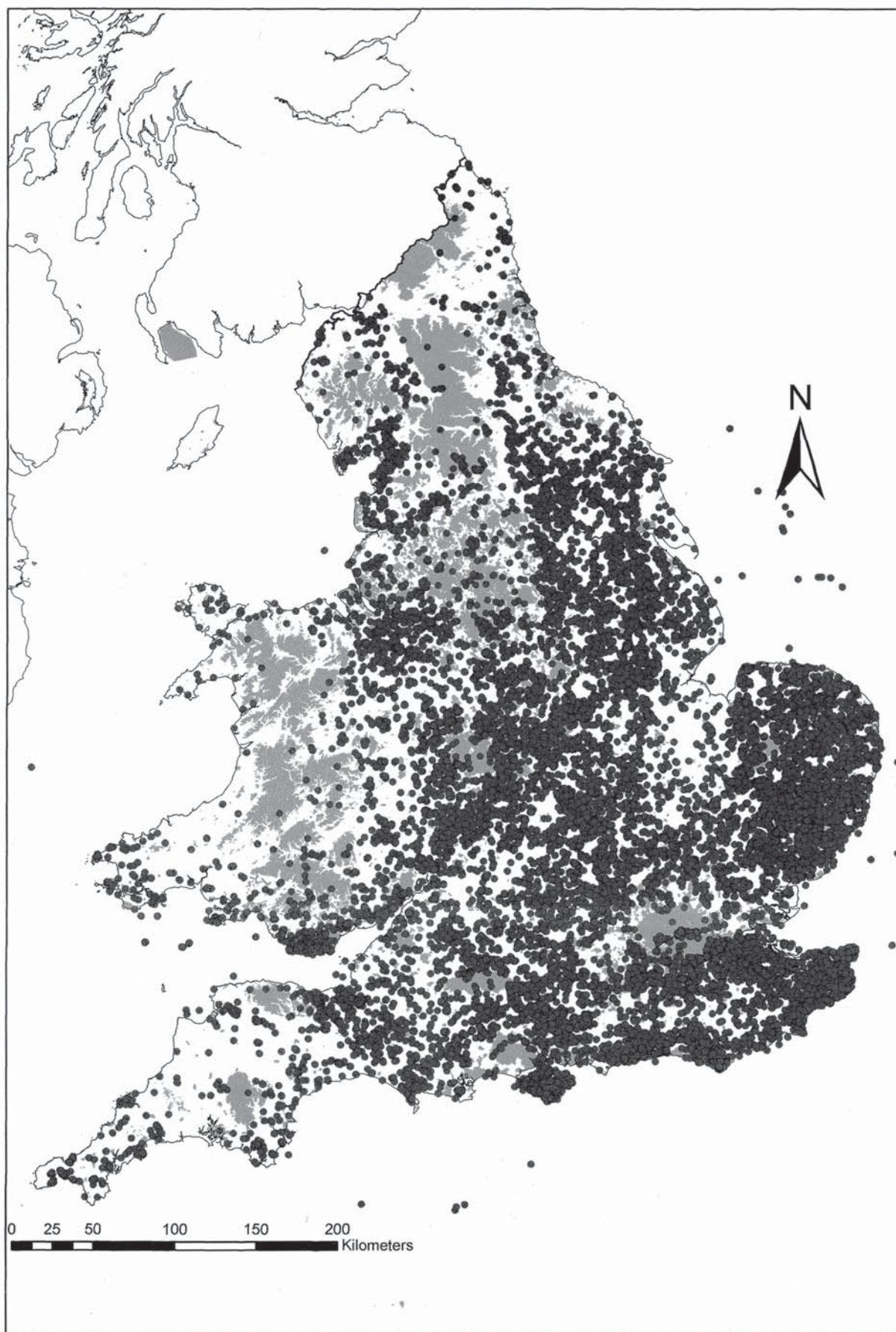


Figure 7: Distribution of all PAS records against possible constraints on data recovery

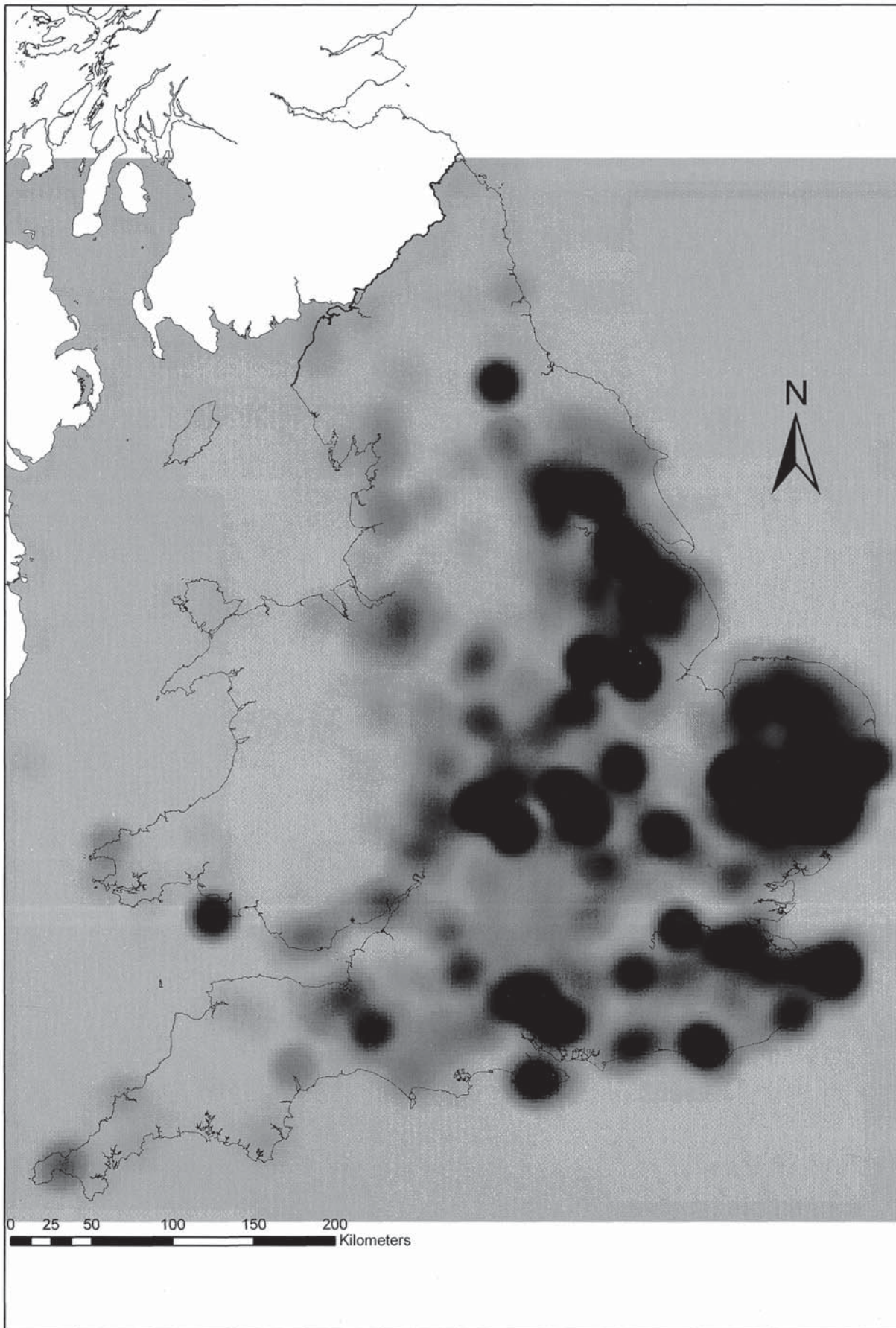


Figure 8: Kernel density plot for all PAS data

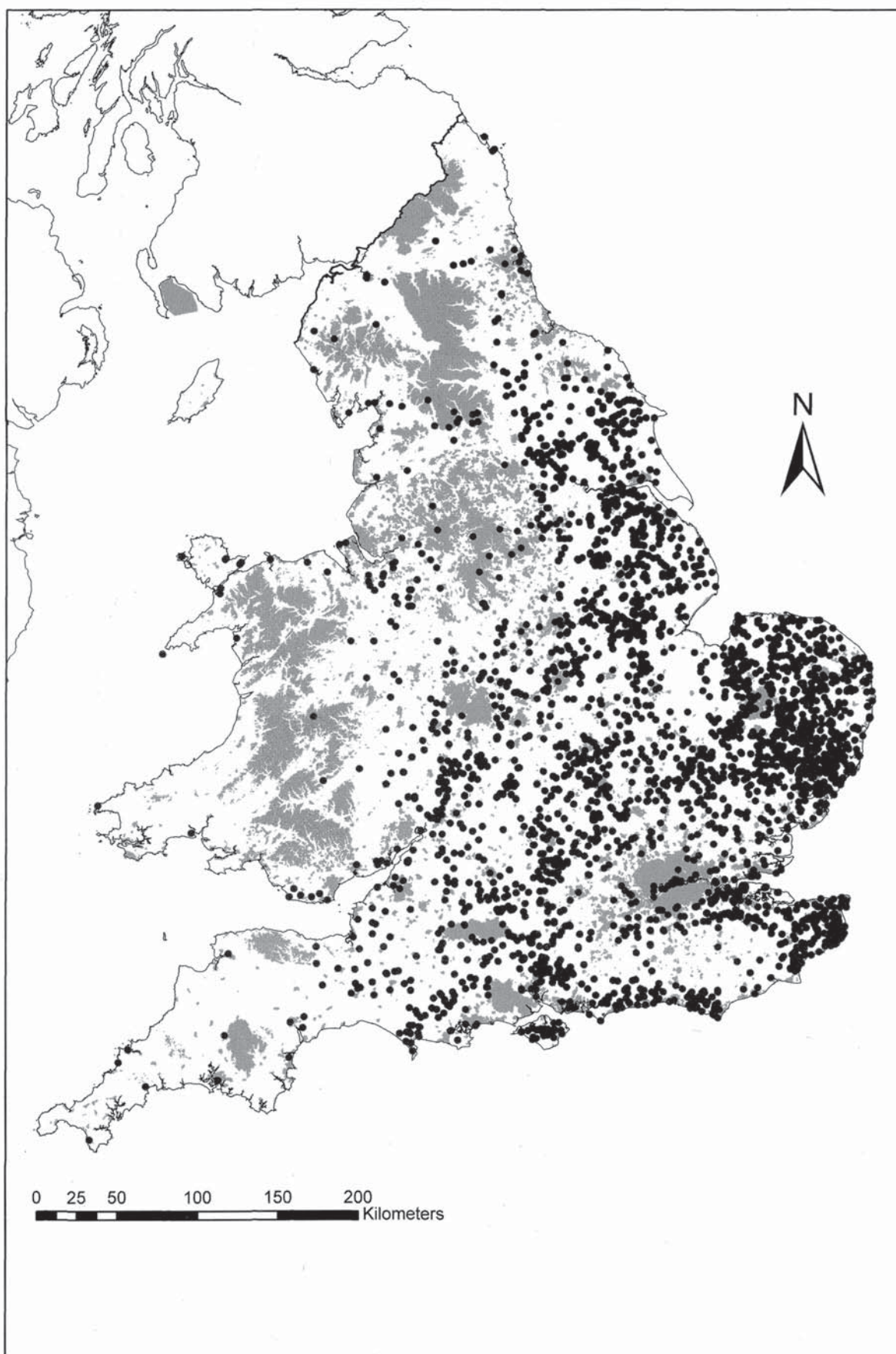


Figure 9: Distribution of all VASLE records against possible constraints on data recovery

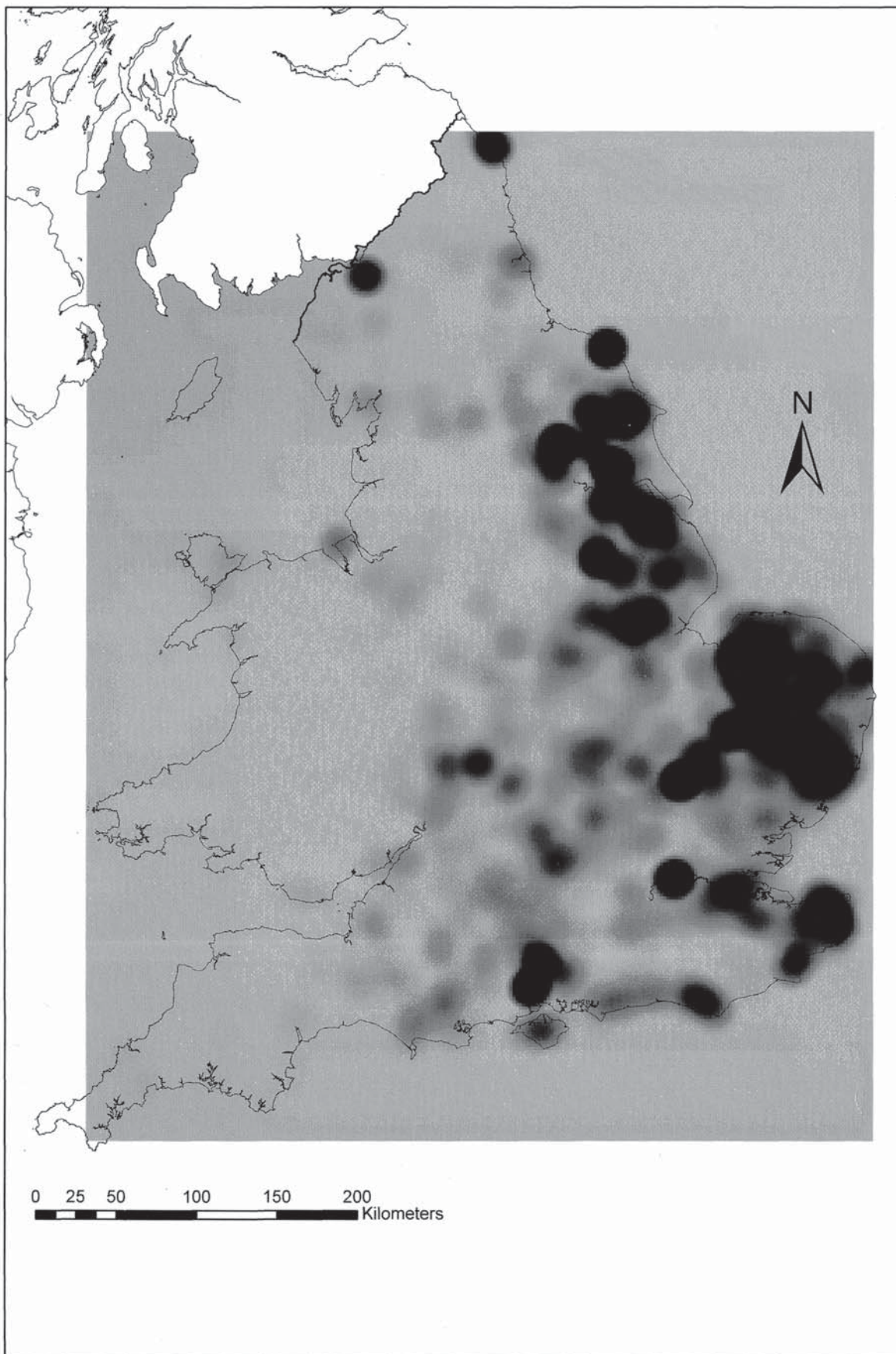


Figure 10: Kernel density plot for all VASLE data

The main question which we must attempt to answer here, however, must be to what extent the distribution patterns seen are a product of constraints on modern recovery of artefacts and how much can be considered a real indicator of ancient settlement patterns. Obviously, it is clear that this is a difficult question to answer, and it must be recognised that there is much regional variation, producing the complex patterns summarised above. However, in general, we can be quite confident that the dearth of finds on higher ground is an indication of ancient settlement patterns and not just the limits of ploughzone, especially given that even on higher ground *within* the ploughzone the number of finds made is generally lower. In eastern England (excluding the north-east and south-east), constraints on data recovery are generally low, and levels of ploughzone very high, and so here it is likely that the distributions have a basis in ancient patterns of settlement. In the north-east there are known problems of access to land and so the sparse distribution there is constrained by modern recovery problems. South-east England faces very similar problems to the north-west and much of the Midlands. The problems associated with urban areas are most pertinent, and the density of finds immediately outside these areas would be expected across the country. Therefore, in the Midlands, north-west and south-east, outside of the highland areas, it should be expected that a more general spread of finds should be seen but urban areas distort this picture to produce a biased pattern.

The VASLE dataset

The data derived from the PAS and EMC forms the basis for the mapping of artefact and coinage distributions on a national scale, and has been cleaned and amended where necessary (for further discussion of this process see Naylor and Richards 2005). The resulting database contains 9,096 entries, 3,379 from the PAS and 5,717 from the EMC, over 94% of which have at least a four-figure national grid reference. As for the overall PAS data, the national distribution of this data (Figure 9) shows a greater concentration of finds in the south and east, especially East Anglia, northern and eastern Kent, the Sussex coastline, North Lincolnshire, and the Vale of York and Yorkshire Wolds. Converting the data to a plot showing kernel densities (Figure 10) gives a better indication of the relative concentrations of finds spots around the country and helps to highlight some of the variations between the VASLE and overall PAS datasets.

The major variations relate to areas in the west. There are fewer VASLE finds, and correspondingly lower densities in the north west, South Wales or the Midlands and virtually no early medieval finds have been made in south-west England. As for most pre-Conquest periods the Weald has produced few finds, and this corresponds well with most early medieval archaeology (e.g. Naylor 2004, 84-5). Variations are

also present in East Anglia, especially in north-east Suffolk where the relative finds density is very low. These variations must be a reflection of settlement patterns in the period. Conversely, the effect of the EMC is visible on the Yorkshire Wolds areas of which exhibit higher density than for the overall PAS dataset. This can be explained by the fact that whilst the PAS only records new finds, the EMC contains all known single coin finds. In most areas this has little effect on distribution patterns or relative density but eastern Yorkshire is somewhat different. The area is a major concentration of ninth-century styca coins, which is so far not reflected to same extent on the PAS database.

Conclusions

To conclude, mapping of the entire PAS dataset provides us with some important conclusions regarding the potential constraints on recovery of artefacts by metal-detection. The data is a complex interplay of factors, with geography (topography, river valleys, wetlands), modern constraints (urbanism, limits of ploughzone farming, forests, military zones), and underlying historical landscape elements all affecting the patterns of finds produced. The two most important factors immediately visible as having major affects on data recovery are the nature of modern urbanism and natural topography/limits of ploughzone. Comparing VASLE-period data to this allows for the distribution pattern to be adequately assessed with respect to both modern constraints and, with care, to patterns of early medieval settlement.

Overall, the research undertaken so far has illustrated the potential contribution of portable antiquities data to archaeological interpretations, and the positive results that are coming from the continued collaboration between archaeologist and metal-detectorists.

Notes

1. The project website can be found at <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/vasle/>
2. The background map detail is based on copyright digital map data owned and supplied by Harper Collins Cartographic and is used with permission. Contours are derived from LANDMAP datasets and are used with permission. The network of Roman roads is based upon I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads of Britain*, (London, 1973).

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John Hurst Dissertation Prize 2005

2005 was the second year of the MA Dissertation prize scheme sponsored by the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* and set up in honour of the late John Hurst, who did so much to promote the field of medieval archaeology and in particular the study of medieval settlement. To encourage new and young scholars in the field, an annual prize of £200 is offered to graduate students for the best Masters dissertation on any theme in the field of medieval settlement and

landscape in Britain and Ireland (c. AD 400–1600). Directors of Masters courses in Archaeology, English Local History, Landscape Studies and related fields were invited to submit high-quality completed dissertations for consideration by the MSRGC Committee. We are delighted to present below a summary of the 2005 prize winning dissertation by Jonathan Kinsella, tackling a much understudied theme in early medieval Irish society:

Locating the Poor and Unfree of Early Medieval Ireland

by Jonathan Kinsella, School of Archaeology, University College Dublin

Introduction

For various archaeological and historical reasons, there has tended to be a focus on the powerful and wealthy throughout the early medieval period of Ireland. In recent years, archaeologists, historians and other interested professionals have analysed the roles that the kings, nobility and wealthy farmers played in early Irish secular society, examining the written sources and focusing on high status and artefact-rich settlements such as large crannogs and multivallate ringforts.

The poor, unfree and merely ordinary have been largely overlooked, believed to have few remaining possessions and, as a result, they have been regarded as archaeologically and historically invisible. The lowest echelons of early Irish society, who were once highly visible throughout the rural landscape, have thus been reduced to bit-part players in traditional discourse and it is an imbalance that has resulted in a disjointed and unrepresentative view of early medieval Irish society.

In order to address this imbalance, my dissertation (for the MA in Landscape Archaeology) focused on the following areas of investigation:

- What contemporary and current scholars have informed us about the lowest classes from early medieval Ireland, offering critiques and possible reasons why the poor have been largely overlooked in the written sources.
- A reinterpretation of the role of enclosed dwellings, such as ringforts, cashels and crannogs, as exclusively the homes of the free social ranks.
- An investigation of the archaeological evidence for all types of unenclosed settlements, including peripheral locations in the landscape such as coastal and upland sites.
- An examination of the settlement and landscape evidence against the backdrop of social, political and environmental change throughout the course

of the early medieval period as senses of identity, place and status were constantly adapting and evolving due to the above factors.

Research Context

Traditionally archaeologists and historians have focused on the highest status members of early medieval society and mostly followed the view that, “archaeologically, low status individuals are undetectable” (Mytum 1992, 136). Ó Cróinín (1995, 108) states there was no widespread poverty during the early medieval period and believes, to the contrary, that this was a time of relative peace and prosperity. He also argues that there was no evidence for a slave-trade in the pre-Viking period and that slavery occurred on a relatively small scale until the arrival of the Vikings (ibid, 268–269), which is a view also shared by Patterson (1994, 152).

Stout (1997, 13), in the *Irish Ringfort*, promisingly begins by declaring that his study “focuses on the lives and material remains of people who are often neglected in historical studies; the men and women who are not the kings and saints of official history but rather farmers and herds, and women and children”. He never sufficiently follows this statement up, however, and makes only sporadic references to the poorer classes and women and children throughout the remainder of his text. Mallory and McNeill (1991, 200), rather than identifying cave and midden sites as the dwelling places of the poor and unfree, have suggested they acted as seasonal fishing or hunting bases. They, again, seem intent in marginalising and underestimating the possible and potential settlement evidence for the lowest echelons of Irish society. Edwards (1990, 44–47), in *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*, only donates four pages, barely two and a half of which contain text, to other settlement types of the period. Her work, like the majority of other accounts of the period, focuses on ringforts, crannogs and ecclesiastical centres, stressing high status sites and artefacts and neglecting the lower classes of early medieval Ireland.

I believe the poor and unfree of early medieval Ireland can be identified in the archaeological and historical record by re-evaluating current approaches and challenging accepted norms. We can detect the lowest social grades throughout different settlement types and marginal landscapes, and alter traditional perceptions of an early medieval Ireland devoid of the very people who formed the majority of its population.

Methodology

My research involved a literary review, comprising a synthesis of the fragmented early medieval settlement and landscape evidence, of Irish archaeological journals, periodicals and excavation reports since 1900.

I based my criteria for distinguishing low status settlement on three factors:

- Firstly I examined the material culture from each settlement to ascertain the possible status of its inhabitants. I noted dress and personal items and recorded functional and utilitarian objects. I also recorded animal bone, flint fragments, iron slag and souterrain pottery ware, stating the quantity found at each site. My aim was to show that the quantity, quality and diversity of artefacts uncovered at each settlement, when analysed comparatively with similar and varied settlement types, could facilitate my investigation into locating the lowest echelons of early medieval Irish society.
- I examined the landscape context where each settlement type was located, based on the type of soils they were situated on and their altitude (OD). Ringforts are traditionally recognised as the homes of free farmers, who resided on agriculturally productive soils and sloping, well-drained land (Charles-Edwards 2000; Edwards 1990; Kelly 1988, 1997; Mytum 1992; Patterson 1994; Stout 1997) and the law-tracts list six different land values, the highest based on its potential productivity for farming (Kelly 1997; Stout 1997). By investigating settlement in marginal peatland, upland and coastal areas, I aimed to show that impoverished and socially excluded groups could be located within peripheral and liminal places in the early medieval landscape.
- Finally, structural analysis and comparative studies were utilised in determining status through an investigation of the types and amount of dwellings within open and enclosed spaces.

Discussion

This dissertation has challenged accepted traditional discourse about the perceived absence of the poor and unfree from the archaeology of early medieval Ireland. My investigation of the settlement and landscape evidence has identified a number of

discoveries that identify the lowest social grades and should generate future debate about how Irish archaeologists approach early medieval sites and the societies that created them:

(i) Ringforts and crannogs as homes of the servile classes

The low artefactual evidence and the location of some ringforts in mountainous and agriculturally unproductive areas are indicative of low status dwellings. This may have been due to increased pressures on kin land and livestock since population and familial increases, throughout the centuries, meant that the youngest family members were unable to inherit the land they were previously entitled to and were pushed out to peripheral spaces in the landscape.

By stating that ringforts could be the dwellings of the poor, I am also challenging the view that the act of enclosure defined the homes of high status individuals (Charles-Edwards 2000; Edwards 1990; Graham 1993; Mallory & McNeill 1991). Structural analysis shows that many of the internal dwellings were simple turf or clay houses and the paucity of finds - where all but one ringfort in the study area had less than ten artefacts - strongly indicates enclosed dwellings were also the homes of the lowest classes.

Crannogs are possibly the most visibly enclosed spaces, by palisade and water, and have been associated with the wealthiest individuals from early medieval Ireland, yet further investigation and excavation of smaller crannogs, such as Sroove in Lough Gara, Co. Sligo (Fredengren 2002) (plate 7), can demonstrate that they were also the homes of the ordinary and lower social grades. In a society where a strong sense of community and familial ties existed, we must conceive that the building of small crannogs on shallow waters was within the capabilities of low status extended families and communities.

(ii) Open dwellings, social mobility and social landscapes

The appearance of high status items at low status dwellings can signify descending social mobility as a brooch or ringed pin may have been passed on as a present, heirloom or as part of an inheritance, notably towards the latter stages of the early medieval period, when pressures on land and agricultural equipment had sufficiently increased. I interpreted the appearance of a high number of artefacts at the hut and house sites at Lough Gur, Co. Limerick (Ó Ríordáin 1949), alternatively as evidence for upward social mobility, suggesting that the community's attachment to their landscape, developed over many years and resulting in a sense of belonging and the creation of ancestral ties, outweighed the need to move from their simple dwellings on relatively unproductive farmland. In other words, environmental determinants or the presence of high status artefacts need not indicate the status of the people that resided within certain settlements and it is



Plate 7: Sroove crannog, Lough Gara, Co. Sligo (from Fredengren 2002).

too simplistic to state that certain types of dwellings were the homes of distinct social grades.

(iii) The impoverished: socially and spatially excluded

I challenge the assertion that the dwelling places of the servile classes were, as Stout (1997, 117-18) declared, living in close proximity to their lords. He also states that it is “not even approximately true” that the impoverished lived in isolated settlements away from their lords (*ibid*).

The lowest echelons of early medieval society also lived in peripheral locations in the landscape that did not feature the farming communities. The results of a viewshed analysis that I conducted through GIS in the Cooley Peninsula, Co. Louth, indicate that the poor and unfree were isolated both in spatial and social terms from the multivallate ringfort dwellers and the majority of hut sites are located in upland areas, segregated from the lower-lying ringforts.

Monk (1998) examined the early medieval landscape of Caherlehillan, Co. Kerry (plate 8). A large number of hut sites are present at Caherlehillan, yet they are situated in upland areas, above the most productive agricultural lands and are not associated with any of the ringforts. The evidence from both the Cooley Peninsula and Caherlehillan shows that hut sites are not exclusively located in proximity to enclosed dwellings and that many appear in upland areas and on poor soils. Hut sites, of course, were probably utilised from prehistoric to early modern times and my research was based on the belief that many were

in use during the early medieval period – but clearly further archaeological investigation is required to clarify the chronology and function of upland hut sites.

(iv) Stone tools and the identification of impoverished women and children

Although only a small number of upland hut sites have been excavated, the archaeological (Williams 1983; 1984) and historical (Patterson 1994, 91) evidence suggests that many can be classified as transhumance settlements. By investigating the biographies of artefacts and drawing upon the settlement, landscape and written evidence, the high levels of poorly-worked flint in mountainous areas may indicate the presence of servile women and children in the archaeological record (see Finlay 2000). The social roles of women and children, in much the same way as the poor and unfree, have been largely ignored and I hope that future interdisciplinary approaches can lead to their identification within early medieval, and archaeological, literature in general.

(v) Open settlement - A lack of material wealth and a changing society

My examination of the material culture of open settlement, as a whole, has produced interesting results. Common throughout are small numbers of finds, the appearance of worked flint, small levels of iron slag and low quantities of animal bone. Along with their basic structural evidence and location of many settlements in agriculturally unproductive

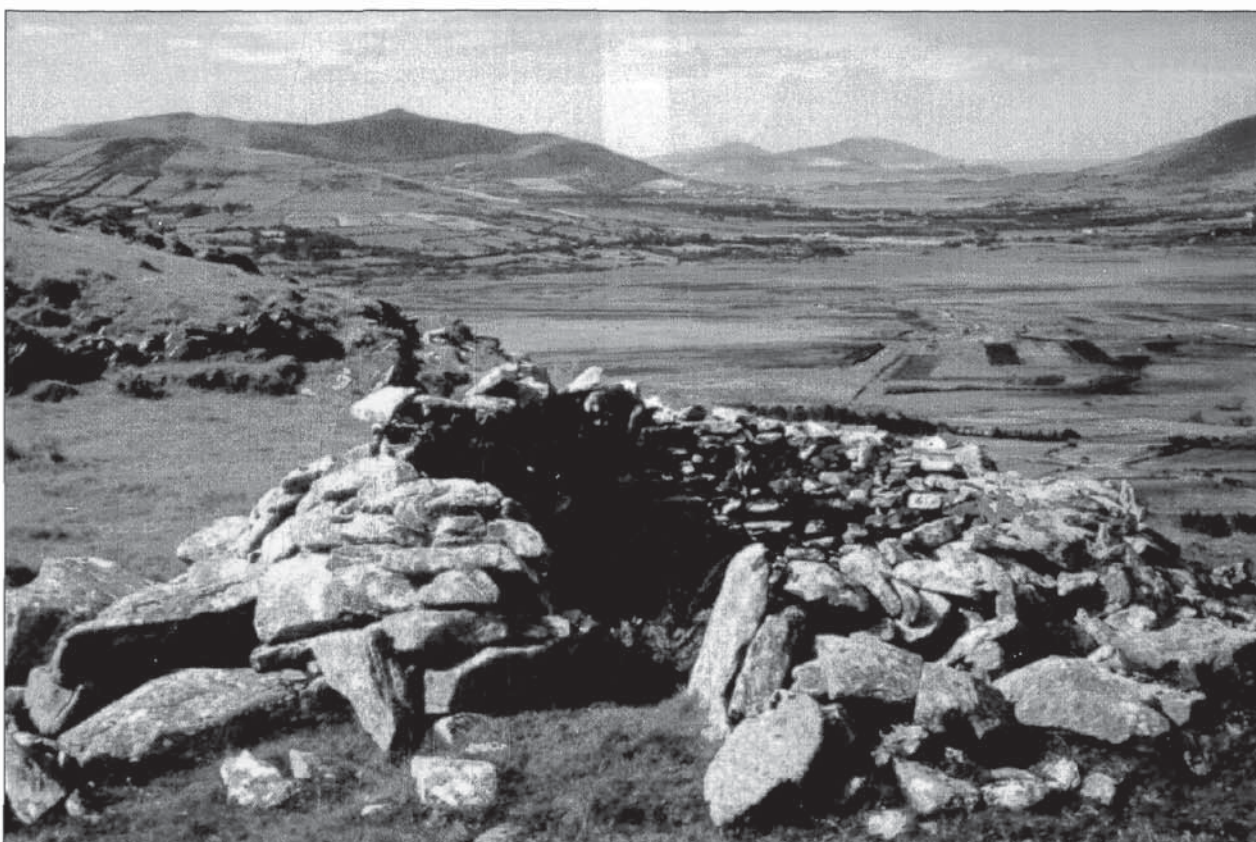


Plate 8: An upland hut site at Caherlehillan, Co. Kerry (from O' Sullivan & Sheehan 1996)

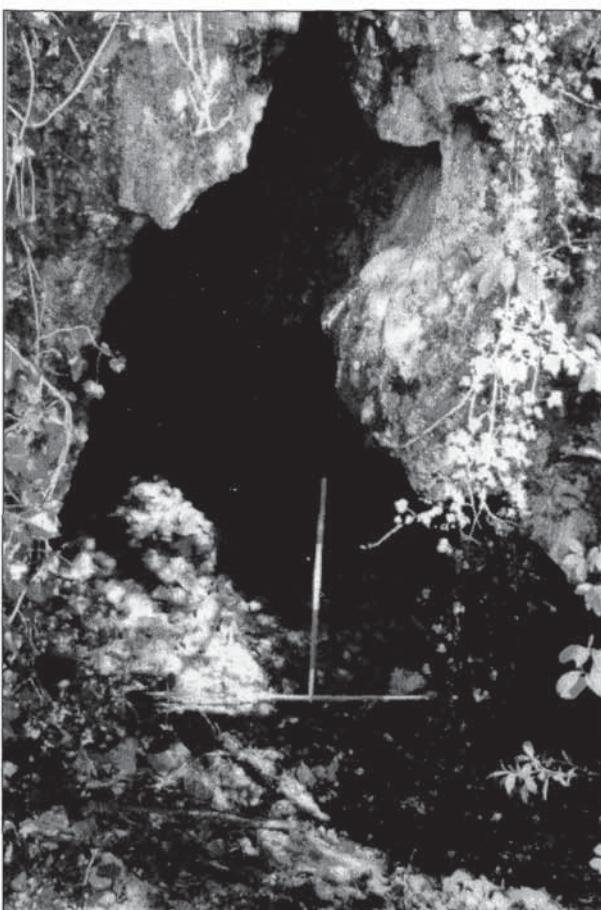


Plate 9: Kilgreany Cave, Co. Waterford from Dowd 2001)

areas, throughout the coast and uplands, there is sufficient evidence to declare the majority of unenclosed dwellings as low status sites. The appearance of worked stone and a lack of iron implements indicate that the impoverished were still utilising stone technology, as they did not have the financial means to acquire metal items. The low levels of animal bone can be viewed as a movement from enclosed to open settlement where the wealth and prestige associated with the ownership of cattle and ringforts (McCormick 1995) diminished during the course of the early medieval period, and the distinctions between the wealthy and semi-free were coming to an end.

(vi) Coastal settlement - Incorporating the socially excluded groups of early medieval Ireland

The appearance of valuable artefacts at some cave sites such as Kilgreany, Co. Waterford (Dowd 2002) (fig.3), and Middleton, Co. Cork (Coleman 1942), does not necessarily indicate high status dwellings. I have interpreted the evidence as the booty of socially marginalised groups such as the *fián*. By thinking in terms of their hostile relationship with the early Christian Church (McCone 1990, 218) and society in general, it is conceivable that the socially excluded groups of early medieval Ireland resided in liminal landscapes, spaces that were considered wild and dangerous by the free classes within the safety of their respective communities.

Conclusion

The purpose of my dissertation was to show that the dwelling places of the poor and unfree of early medieval Ireland are not invisible, missing or undetectable and the problem is that archaeologists and historians, continuing the prejudices of early medieval jurists and monastic writers, have failed to incorporate them within their narratives. Through a careful and critical study of the archaeological literature, I propose that I have found distinctive and intriguing archaeological evidence that should allow new perspectives to be drawn on early medieval settlement and landscape and the society that shaped them.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank all the staff in the School of Archaeology, University College Dublin, especially the head of department Dr Muiris O'Sullivan and the co-ordinators of the MA in Landscape Archaeology, Dr Aidan O'Sullivan and Dr Graeme Warren. I especially thank my supervisor Aidan O'Sullivan who was on-hand to offer continuous guidance and encouragement. Finally, a big hello and thank you to my classmates within the MA in Landscape Archaeology and also from the MA in Art and Architecture – it was a great year!

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Raunds Area Project Publication

By Steve Parry, Andy Chapman and Michel Audouy

The series of monograph reports detailing the results of those aspects of the Raunds Area Project (SP 990 730) carried out by the then Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit in the 1980s to early 1990s will be finally appearing over the next year or two. Final editing and the publication is being fully funded by English Heritage, and the volumes will be published by Oxbow Books.

The report on the results of the Raunds Area Survey, by Steve Parry, detailing the model of prehistoric landscape use and Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement development that has emerged as a result of the systematic field walking of four parishes, as well as complementary documentary analysis and the results of trial trenching and other minor excavations, is currently in press and should be available by the time this note appears in print.

In Raunds itself, the excavation of several sites at the northern end of the village revealed much of interest to students of the origin of villages. Dispersed early Saxon occupation gave way to a middle Saxon farm at Langham Road, while the manorial centre at Furnells had its origin in an Anglo-Scandinavian farm of the 9th century that, in the 10th century, following the re-conquest by the Saxon kings, was absorbed into a new plot system with the Saxon timber halls later replaced by a stone-built manor house. The report on the associated church and cemetery has previously been published, but this volume will also contain a

revised chronology for the overall development of Furnells manor and the nearby settlement. The report, originally prepared by Michel Audouy, has been edited for publication by Andy Chapman and should appear in 2007.

Finally, the extensive excavation of the deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton, Raunds, on the edge of the river floodplain, revealed the complex and dynamic story of how what appeared in earthwork to be a simple peasant hamlet, actually had its origin in the mid-10th century, following the Saxon re-conquest, as a late Saxon manor, with a timber hall, ancillary buildings and a watermill, set within a regular system of ditched plots. The manor had been rebuilt in stone by the mid-12th century, but through this century catastrophic flooding was to result in the demise of the watermill and the provision of a protective floodbank, with the settlement eventually lying 1.0m below the alluvial silts that accumulated across the adjacent floodplain. The manor house was later relocated and enlarged, but shortly afterwards, in the early 14th century, the manor was abandoned and the buildings were sub-divided to form several peasant tenements. These farmed the former manorial demesne lands, but the first tenement was deserted by the middle of the century, and the others appear to have been deserted one by one up to middle of the 15th century. The report has been prepared and edited by Andy Chapman and should be available later in 2007.

Norfolk Ancient Woodland Historic Environment Rapid Identification Survey, Pilot Study

By Brian Cusion

This project was funded by English Heritage, The Forestry Commission, The countryside section of Norfolk County Council Planning & Transportation Dept., and The Woodland Trust and carried out by Brian Cusion for Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. Its major objectives were to locate, identify, describe, record and characterize the above ground evidence of the historic environment in 12% of the identified area of ancient woodland, involving 15 woods of varying size and type, geographically spread throughout the county. Additionally, it would provide information to assist in the more effective management of ancient woodland as well as trialing methodology.

The major identified earthworks included woodland boundarybanks, some almost certainly of medieval date in the following woods: Wayland, Watton (HER 36300, TL925996); Reffley, *Kings Lynn* (HER 40175, TF656218); Woodrising (HER40178, TF977034), Shepherds Fell (HER40179, TF973030); and Hazel Hurn (HER 40180, TF978028), all in *Cranworth*; Little Wood (HER 40181, TG007316), & Great Wood (HER40182, TG015311), *Swanton Novers* and Tindall Wood (HER 40188, TM327935),

Ditchingham, Significant internal subdivisions were noted in Woodrising and Swanton Great & Little Woods.

A moated site with associated enclosures in Hedenham Wood (HER 40186, TM314946), *Hedenham*, was newly recorded, as well as further features associated with a known moated site, HER8823, in Hazel Hurn.

In Felbrigg Great Wood (HER40183, TG193402), *Felbrigg & Aylmerton*, several hollow ways and former roadways were recorded, often equating with early map evidence for former park boundaries, (the woods overlapping with Felbrigg Park HER29822), some of likely medieval date.

Possible barrows were noted in Swanton Novers & Felbrigg Great Woods. Other woods inspected with lesser features identified were: Birch Wood, *Barton Bendish*, (HER40176, TF735027); Nut Wood, *Beachamwell* (HER40177, TF750056); Long Row, *Hedenham* (HER40187, TM318938); Strumpshaw (HER40184, TG349072) & Buckenham Woods (HER40185, TG360070, both in *Strumpshaw*).

A landscape study of the deserted medieval Settlement of Arras, East Yorkshire

By Matthew Phillpott

The location of Arras Farm and its cottages is today the only remaining human occupation of a site that has been settled in one way or another since the Iron Age. Located near the top of a small hill on the western fringes of the Wolds in East Yorkshire, Arras is most famous for lending its name to the prehistoric 'Arras Culture' exemplified in I. Steade's book of the same name. The medieval settlement, however has received far less attention; something which my Masters dissertation attempted to rectify.

This settlement is listed in the documentation as Erghes (1154), Herges (1156), Erevhes (1253), Erchys (1260), and Erghus (1465) [Smith, 230]. The most common usage was 'Erghes' of which the derivative of 'erg' comes from the Gaelic influenced Scandinavian from tenth century Irish-Norwegian Viking immigration. It denotes 'a shieling' which in turn describes 'a hill pasture', 'a hut on a pasture' or 'a small dairy settlement often found on the side of mountains' [Ekwell, 98]. Such a description suggests that medieval Arras began life as an expanse of pastureland with a few buildings. The location of Arras, near the summit of a hill, on the western fringes of the Wolds certainly fits the latter description. During its lifetime the settlement gained a small chapel and a manor house. It appears to have survived the fourteenth century plagues only to later become deserted by the replacement of tenants with sheep in the sixteenth century.

During the 2004-05 season I carried out a field walking exercise and resistivity survey of the field where the village had once lain, as well as an examination of the documentary resources. This research was intended to prove that the village and associated chapel had been correctly identified on the early Ordinance Survey maps and discover something of its life and eventual decline. The field walking survey was formed of a 5x14 square grid of 10x10 metre squares based on the suggested location on the SMR and NMR databases and several aerial photographs. The results proved inconclusive as far as locating any specific accumulations which might have suggested building locations. However, the 3537 sherds, of which 165 were rims or bases, revealed a range largely dating from the twelfth to the end of the fifteenth century, throughout the grid. Most of the sherds were orange to pink in colour comprising largely of Humber type wares. There were also large representations of gritty wares, forming about 11% of the total collection. Also present were York Glazed, Scarborough and Brandsby types – suggesting a largely local basis of pottery manufacture.

The resistivity survey proved more beneficial. Most significantly the remains of a rectangular building 10x5 metres was located next to a clear trackway (which lines up accurately with the cropmarks on aerial photographs). This feature (SE 92218 41662) matches up with the NMR suggested location for the chapel. It is also worth noting that the feature is on the higher portion of land where a faint bump can still be seen. The survey also showed several areas which could be interpreted as potential tofts and crofts on both sides of the trackway. Ridge and furrow is also evident on the southern side of the settlement. A survey of the farm dated c.1620, combined with later surveys, helps to form a clear picture of the field layout. The field near the chapel feature was a pasture named Nordales (later renamed Chapel Hill). The ridge and furrow crosses underneath the chapel feature and over the top of another possible feature (possibly representing another structure or an enclosure) providing some chronological context for this field use. This suggests that an enclosure or structure was present here in the earliest phase of settlement, and was then turned over to field. When the chapel was built the land was probably incorporated into the ecclesiastical lands and left as pasture.

The early-modern surveys help to widen the understanding of the Arras landscape. In the initial phase of settlement arable farming appears to have taken place quite close to the settlement on the southern side. However, as the settlement expanded and at an indiscernible date the 'south' field was given over to the building and use of a chapel, while three large fields on the lower northern slopes appear to have been turned to arable usage. The c.1620 survey

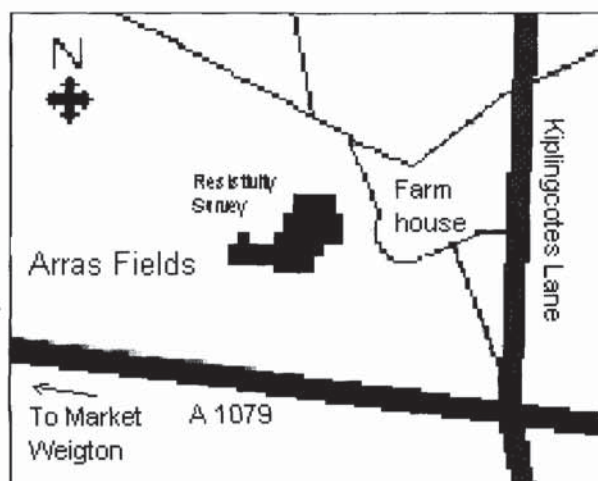


Figure 11: Arras Farm and the surrounding area, showing the location of the 2004-5 resistivity survey.

Established Phase (14th to 16th)

The Village. In 1526 there were five tofts and crofts recorded at Arras. The location of these is uncertain, however records concerning the ownership of land has suggested that some of the owners had tofts backing onto the ridge and furrow. As it is uncertain how long the field south of the village was ploughed the tofts have been mainly placed to the north where the west, middle and east fields appear to have been the main arable land.

Ridge and furrow. The lines drawn are only representations of the open fields and do not show any accurate parcels of land. Documents show that around the mid-fourteenth century the tofts and associated bovates lay from the west in this order; Peter Lyolfe, Robert Percy of Houton, Adam De Somerville. Another group was owned in 1370 by John son of Richard the clerk between two parcels of land of Sir Thomas de Percy.

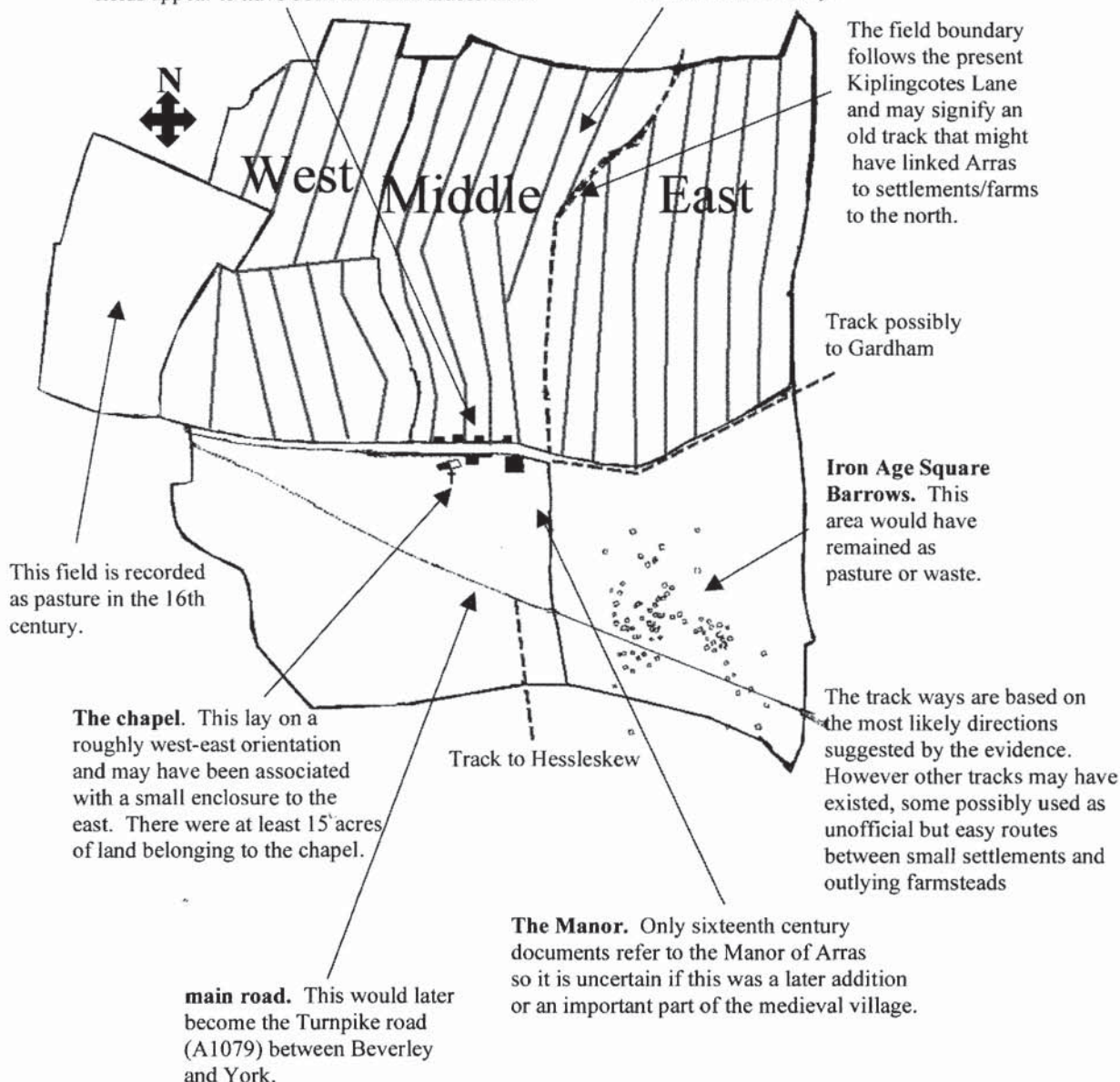


Figure 12: Reconstruction of the landscape of Arras Farm based on information from the farm survey of c. 1620 and more recent fieldwork.

simply names these fields west, middle, and east; suggestive of their earlier usage. Fourteenth-century documents suggests that these fields expanded up to the settlement itself. John son of Richard 'the clerk' of Erghes and his wife Matilda owned a parcel of land close to the village. It is possible that this was the same land that he owned between the lands of Sir Thomas de Percy and Robert Lyolfe, which is recorded as having been built upon [Sheppard, 4]. Arras also had a pasture named in c.1620 as Moore Pasture; a name meaning 'barren waste land' [Field, 87]. It was here that the Iron Age barrows lay making this a piece of unusable land as far as farming was concerned.

The size of the settlement itself is unlikely to have ever been large. The 1381 poll tax shows that there were 29 recorded persons paying tax of which 13 were the wives of the householder. This accounts for about 16 taxpaying households. In the mid-fifteenth century Arras is recorded as having less than 10 households and by 1526 there was only five tofts and crofts [NMR Report 64366]. This suggests that the settlement may have diminished slightly in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. There was a manor house in Arras, which later became the main farmhouse (demolished in modern times and replaced). Nothing is known of this house before the sixteenth century, when in 1531 Sir Robert Constable purchased it with the rest of Arras from Thomas Johnson. This signalled the end of Arras as a settlement as Constable turned the land to sheep farming, impoverishing the remaining inhabitants. The end of Arras is well attested to in the Star Chamber accounts in which it is claimed that Constable accompanied with 24 armed men informed the people of Arras that they were expelled from their lands. They then destroyed an estimated 400 quarts of beans, oats, and peas, which amounted to about £80 [Brown, 21-2].

The depopulation of the settlement was a relatively quick process beginning in 1532 and ending about forty years later. Although the plagues and general decline of England's economy and population during the fourteenth century, should not be seen as a deciding factor in its desertion, it may have helped keep it small and ultimately vulnerable. Arras was relieved of about half its lay subsidy in 1352, just a few years after the Black Death, suggesting that it had

suffered during that time. However comparison with other surviving settlements in the Harthill wapentake between the 1352 lay subsidy and the poll tax of 1381 shows that Arras maintained its position in the lower half of the comparative economic wealth of local settlements. Although settlements such as Goodmanham, Leconfield and Sancton had increased in wealth relative to Arras other settlements such as North Cliffe, Hunsley and Brantingham had remained comparable.

In the mid-1560s the chapel appears to have ceased in its religious function. A lease by John Hammond for 'toft, croft, garth, chapel, and lands in the fields of Arras sometime belonging to the chapel there' rapidly changed hands first to John and William Marshe of London, and then to Jonas Wastes of Clements Inn, then Francis Barker, Thomas Browne, Walter Plomar, and Richard Hobson of London, who paid 4d in 1575 [BJL, DDEV/3/28]. By the time of the c.1620 survey the lands were owned partly by Thomas Stephenson and partly by Sir Philip Constable. The village had passed into obscurity and all that remained was a small farm to signify its presence.

Acknowledgements:

This article is based on my MA History dissertation 'Arras – East Yorkshire. The Archaeology and History of a lost landscape', University of Hull, 2004. The resistivity survey was carried out with the help of the East Riding Archaeological Society. The field-walking material has since been deposited at the Hull and East Riding Museum, 36 High Street, Hull

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Early Anglo-Saxon Settlement in the East Midlands

Michael Hawkes, University of Leicester

This article presents a summary of my PhD research into the characteristics of settlement in the early and middle Anglo-Saxon periods in the East Midlands and in particular the period AD 450-850. The main geographic focus of my research is the area comprising the counties of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland.

This period is significant because it encompasses two transitional phases in the development of the landscape, both of which remain poorly understood in this part of the country. The first phase is that from Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England with the change from a partially urbanised landscape to one that exhibits a predominantly dispersed pattern of rural settlement; secondly, the latter part of the period sees the start of settlement nucleation and urban renewal associated with the middle to late Saxon periods. Some of my research also concentrates on the later Roman period, seeking to assess the character of the Romano-British countryside and settlement in the region. In addressing this, I hope to review the types and identities of settlements and territories associated with the Roman period. In conjunction with data from the Anglo-Saxon period, I will also consider the survival of established settlements and territories beyond AD 400. Additionally I intend to investigate whether the Anglo-Saxon period shows signs of significant change in landscape organisation and whether the presence of a new population can be identified.

Traditionally, Anglo-Saxon archaeology has tended to focus on the issues of burials, artefacts and identity. This may be in part due to the scant nature of the archaeology of early Anglo-Saxon period settlements, but the past three decades have seen significant changes in archaeological techniques, which, in

conjunction with more extensive landscape surveys, have begun to reveal much more in terms of settlements and also settlement patterns which make it possible to enter into debates on the questions of continuity or loss of settlements and populations, and the origins of villages and estates.

In Leicestershire, the survey areas that form the main focus for my thesis are the Wreake Valley to the north-east and the area along the line of the Roman Gartree Road to the south-east of Leicester. Rutland saw significant fieldwork in advance of the construction of Empingham Reservoir/Rutland Water, and in Northamptonshire data from the surveys around Raunds, Brigstock, Rockingham Forest and the on-going work around Whittlewood will be used. In addition, several specific sites are incorporated, namely the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Eye Kettleby in Leicestershire, the Roman small town of Great Casterton, Rutland with Roman and post-Roman burials and in Northamptonshire, the Roman villa site at Piddington.

At present most of these data have either been recorded but as yet remain unpublished, or have been published in isolation in journals. While not ignoring the burial data, what is now needed is an attempt to synthesise this fragmentary data in order to present a new view of the landscape of this period. It is by drawing on these new data that I hope to be able to contribute to our understanding of this part of the landscape of 'Dark Age' England.

I would be happy to receive any comments and advice, to the School of Archaeology and Ancient History University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH. E-mail: mah15@le.ac.uk or mikehawkes@hotmail.com

Investigating Middle Ages villages in the area of the Roman rural settlements

By Orsolya Csirke, Budapest

My doctoral research project, supervised by Professor Jozsef Laszlovszky, deals with the medieval utilization of areas of Roman ruins in the Transdanubian region of Hungary. Until recently, this topic was on the margin of the settlement archaeological/historical research in Hungary.

In my work I investigate the characteristics of the medieval villages which appeared in the area in the eleventh to fifteenth centuries AD and which utilized the ruins of the Roman (first to fourth centuries AD) *villae*, and other rural settlements in Hungary. The project deals with the Transdanubian region, but it does not take into consideration similar research on the Roman towns and military/fortress settlements. What can be clearly stated is that there is no population continuity between the two periods and so the most important research question revolves around the exact nature of the links between the abandoned Roman ruins and the emergence of nucleated settlements established during the Middle Ages. Was there a formal or conscious relationship or just one of convenience and reuse?

The geographical focus of my research is the northern part of Lake Balaton, a micro-region with rich source material and with good research opportunities. I plan to compare the data obtained here with research results from other parts of the Transdanubian region,

and, if possible, with other European analogies. As Hungarian archaeological and settlement historical research has created an overall picture of the structure of the medieval Transdanubian villages, it is possible to compare the characteristics of the ruins utilized by medieval villages and the standard structure of villages from the period of the tenth to fifteenth centuries.

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. to create a well-researchable database by collecting and collating topographic data and excavation results;
2. to examine the Roman and rural settlements and their relationship;
3. to develop an overall picture of the reasons, methods and extent of the medieval utilization of Roman ruins by comparing the characteristics of the micro-regions in the Transdanubian region;
4. comparing the data with results of other European research and incorporating foreign research methods into my investigation.

I would be happy to hear of comments, ideas and advice. Laczkó Dezső Múzeum, Erzsébet sétány 1, H-8200, Veszprém, Hungary. Email: csirkeorsi@vmmuzeum.hu

Examining Transylvanian Saxon Fortified Churches from the 13th to the 16th Centuries: The History and Archaeology of the Saxon Rural Church in Romania: Roles and Identities

David Morgan, University of Leicester

My doctoral research project, supervised by Dr. Neil Christie, concentrates on the Saxon fortified church of Transylvania in a rural setting from the 13th to the 16th century, using analytical frameworks to establish hierarchy and relationships and then testing this by exploring the roles and identities of the church in this setting. Selected fortified churches are placed in their landscape and then evaluated as administrative and regional centers.

Transylvania, a hilly region situated in the centre of Romania, represents a very special cultural landscape. Bearing the mark of a centuries-long mingled life of the Romanians, Hungarians and Germans, it has a unique feature: nowhere else in the world are there to be found, preserved, in such a narrow space, so many reinforced fortified churches, witnessing such a varied material expression of the defense technique. The origin and development of fortified churches are, undoubtedly, linked to the troubled history of Transylvania, starting from the Tatar invasion, in 1241-42, passing through the Turks' repeated forays (from 1395) to the devastating Mohacs defeat of 1526.

The study is intended to widen understanding of the region by investigating the roles and identities of the Saxon fortified church. The project will examine the archaeological data, village morphology and documents relating to the time period. Historically, the essence of the Saxon community is predicated on the past and those events that shaped and formed the society before its arrival in Transylvania in the mid 12th century.

This project and thesis focuses on the fortified churches in several communities in order to examine and define the differences between the churches in style, materials, method of construction and defensive schemes employed to protect the population. By looking at the relationships of the communities with each other, the surrounding Saxon communities, the non-Saxon communities and the church within the framework of the community it is hoped to evaluate the importance and function of the fortified church in the community.

I would be happy to hear any comments, ideas and advice. davidmorgan@hotmail.com

The Roman to Medieval Transition in the Essex Landscape: a study in persistence, continuity and change

Brynmor Morris, University of Exeter

Introduction

This programme of doctoral research, completed in May 2006, explored one of the most enigmatic and evocative periods in British history: the transition from the monumental authority of Imperial Rome to a multiplicity of decidedly more parochial successor states. This period is alive with questions that have yet to be satisfactorily explained – to what extent were the post-Roman peoples of Britain descended from British or Anglo-Saxon families? What happened to Roman settlements in the late fourth century? At what point did the more familiar medieval settlement pattern emerge, and how much does it owe to the Roman period?

This research adopted a landscape-mediated approach to these questions which incorporated a wide variety of different sources of evidence – archaeological, ecclesiastical, historical, place-name, palaeoenvironmental, topographical and numismatic – aiming to take advantage of the mass of archaeological data arising from the numerous interventions sponsored by PPG16. It focused on one part of a hypothetical British enclave – the East Saxon Kingdom and the historic county of Essex – from the Roman Conquest to the eleventh century.

The watchword of this research has been *context*, as the subjects addressed and issues raised have been examined in their wider geographical, historical, methodological and thematic context. What this regional study strives to achieve is a synthesis of the current evidence and an exploration of the implications for the area now known as Essex, without necessarily assuming the results will be directly applicable to other parts of England, but one that will complement and extend our understanding of the regional impact of the *Adventus Saxonum*.

While the surge in the number of archaeological interventions taking place has massively augmented the archaeological database, development-led archaeology would never lead to an uniform increase, and it is especially important to quantify the 'fieldwork effect' for a period when the absence of evidence has been seen as at least as important as any data we might collect. To offset this otherwise invisible bias, a database of archaeological interventions in Essex was compiled for the years 1990-2001, and a contoured density plot generated in the GIS program *ARCVIEW* to provide a more visual comparanda.

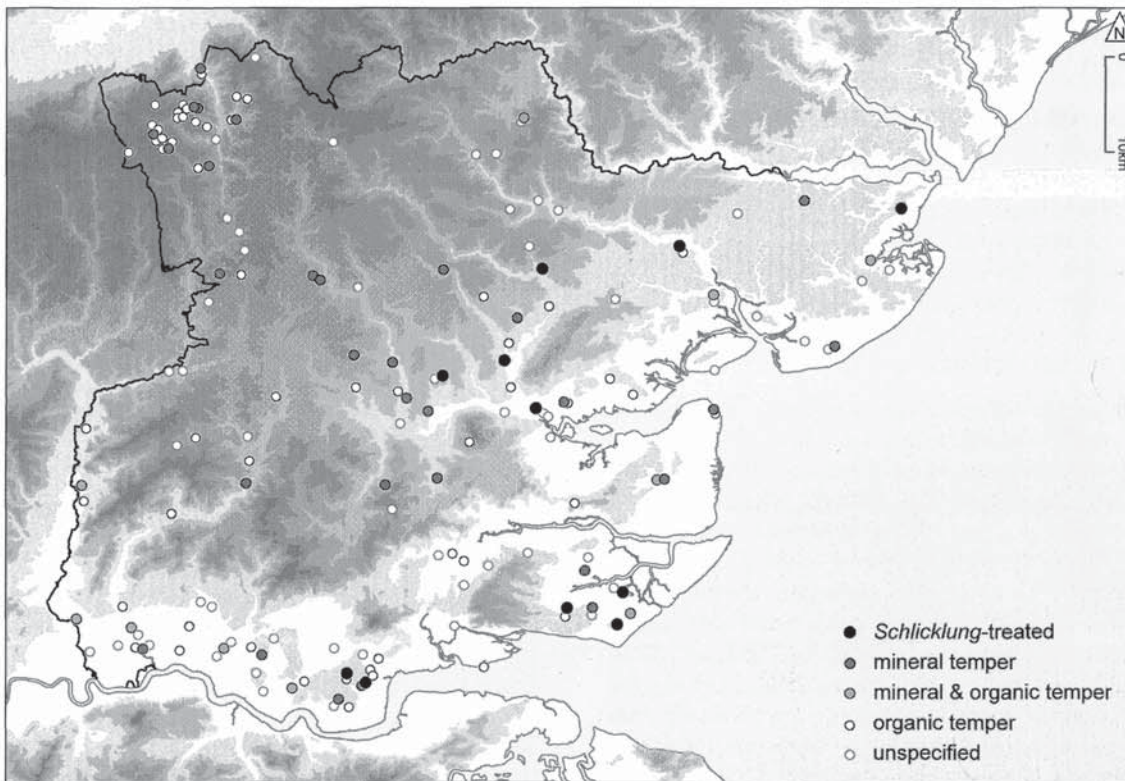


Figure 13: The distribution of early 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery in Essex, by fabric type and including Schlicklung-treated pottery. Many, but by no means all, sources list fabric types, and thus 'unspecified' is included as a category. Contours at 20m intervals.

Historiography

As long ago as 1935, Mortimer Wheeler suggested that the absence of furnished 'Anglo-Saxon' burials in the London area might indicate that a Romano-British kingdom or enclave had survived within what would become 'Anglo-Saxon' England (Wheeler 1935, 50-1, 58-9). While the original extent of his 'sub-Roman triangle' has been much eroded, a considerable part of this area is marked by an absence of 'Anglo-Saxon' burials does seem to be genuine, an absence borne out by decades of archaeological fieldwork that has singularly failed to identify a significant 'pagan' 'Anglo-Saxon' presence in this region.

Subsequent authors have suggested this represents the late survival of the Roman *civitas* of the *Catavallauni*, perhaps emerging in later medieval Welsh tradition as *Calchvynydd*, the 'land of the chalk (or limestone) hills between Trent and Thames' (Rutherford-Davis 1982, 46-7). This area was also home to the *Cilternsæte*, or 'the Chiltern-dwellers', a seventh-century people mentioned in the Tribal Hidage, and bearing one of the *-sæte* collective names otherwise located on the western and largely British fringes of Anglo-Saxon expansionism (Higham 1995, 170-1). Yet while the documentary evidence is suggestive, the archaeological evidence for the survival of a substantial post-Roman British polity or even population has remained resolutely negative.

Given the wide range of material employed, the issues addressed, and the holistic approach adopted, it is impossible to adequately summarize all of the findings of this research, so what follows will focus on the settlement history of early medieval Essex in its landscape context.

Settlements

The settlement history of the post-Roman period has always been a little vague, and the fate of the Romano-British population has exercised archaeologist and historian alike as few others. In contrast to many other areas, it is actually the earlier part of this period which is best served by the archaeological remains, and thus attention will focus on the fifth, sixth and seventh centuries, for reasons that are explored below.

Tracing the development of settlement through this period remains problematic, and there are four main reasons why this should be the case. The first is that historically, masonry has always played a distant second string to the timber structural tradition in Essex. During the Roman period, even townhouses in Colchester that contained elaborate mosaic floors were often built in timber and daub with more durable materials confined to the foundations (Crummy 1984, 20-3). The second is that the relentless attrition of arable cultivation has stripped the upper levels from most rural sites, truncating the remaining structural evidence and leaving it stratigraphically isolated. On many sites the only evidence for Roman or early

medieval occupation lies divorced of context in the ploughsoil. The third reason is that the fragile nature of most early medieval pottery fabrics means that they often cannot survive within an active ploughzone, and the identification of this material in the field can only indicate surviving archaeological features – acting as pottery 'reservoirs' – continue to be eroded (e.g. Upex 2004). The final reason concerns the nature of investigation: fieldwalking locates abandoned settlements, and this may artificially emphasize the importance of discontinuity; in addition, excavation within medieval or modern settlements can rarely be said to demonstrate continuity of occupation.

Any exploration of early medieval settlement must begin in the Roman period, as the very existence of a hypothetical 'sub-Roman enclave' would indicate that the transition between the two was anything but abrupt. 439 Roman sites have been identified to date, most of which were also settlements, with such a degree of variation in size, organization and apparent status that it defies easy classification. It is also clear that this barely scratches the surface: fieldwalking assessments have recorded densities of 1.3 to 2.2 sites per square kilometre (Medlycott & Germany 1996; Williamson 1984). In terms of their dating, the number of contemporary sites rose to a peak in the third century, but dropped only slightly in the fourth. The overall settlement pattern was never entirely static, but over 70% of the sites occupied in the first century were still there in the fourth, and a growing number of these sites have produced pottery belonging to Chelmsford ceramic phase 8 (AD c.360/70+) (see Going 1987).

There were two significant outcomes of this investigation. The first is that up to 34% of sites occupied in the fourth century have produced small amounts of 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery, the significance of which is considered in more detail below. The second is that, far from being a period of inexorable decline, the history of late Roman settlement in Essex is a surprisingly active one. Interest has formerly focused on the evidence for continuity, like the now familiar Rivenhall sequence, where a second-century villa complex appears to have been occupied, with some structural changes and additions, into the fifth century (see Rodwell & Rodwell 1986; 1993). However, the evidence from other, highly Romanized sites across the county suggests that they were deliberately demolished, and that negative features were filled and leveled. The *mansio* at Chelmsford, the villas at Chignall St. James, Great Holts Farm (Boreham), Little Oakley, Beauchamps Farm (Wickford), and the temples at Chelmsford, Ivy Chimneys (Witham), and perhaps also Harlow all appear to have been torn down and the materials employed elsewhere (Barford 2002; Bartlett 1987; Clarke 1998; Germany 2003; Rodwell 1970a; 1970b; Turner 1999; Essex County Council HCR 16965). In addition, circumstantial evidence from Maltings Lane (Witham), Great

Coggeshall, Heybridge, Balkerne Lane (Colchester), Gestingthorpe, Shillingstone Field (Great Sampford) and Bishop's House in Great Chesterford suggest that these or nearby structures were also deliberately slighted and leveled (Atkinson & Preston 1998; Clarke 1988; Crummy 1984; Draper 1985; Garwood 1998; 2002; Wade 2004).

The dating would suggest that demolition took place during or after Chelmsford ceramic phase 8 (c. AD 360/70+), and the fact that public, private and religious structures were all targeted would suggest that this formed part of a more general trend within late or post-Roman Essex. The most important issue is whether these sites were destroyed and abandoned, or simply dismantled and replaced in a less durable, but perhaps more functional or even fashionable medium. Unfortunately, structurally conclusive evidence rarely, if ever, escapes the hungry plough. The presence of 'Anglo-Saxon' material or structures on some of these sites (pottery: Bishop's House, Chignall St. James, Great Coggeshall, Gestingthorpe, Great Holts Farm, Harlow, Little Oakley, Shillingstone Field, Wickford; structures: Harlow, Heybridge, Maltings Lane and Wickford) indicates that there was some form of occupation or activity on these sites pre- or post-dating demolition, and could, in some instances, have been contemporary.

In terms of 'post-Roman' settlement, the increase in archaeological intervention initiated by PPG16 has not led to an early medieval settlement excavation on a scale comparable to Carlton Colville or Flixton,

(Suffolk) (Boulter 2003a; 2003b; Dickens *et al.* 2006). As a result, we can add little to what is known about the morphology and development of individual settlements, but a surprising number of these rather more modest interventions have produced a small amount of early 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery, and the overall distribution of this material is highly significant (see figure 16).

Yet merely acknowledging the presence of this material can tell us little unless some appreciation of its chronological significance can be established. The size and character of most early medieval pottery assemblages has hindered our understanding of such distinctions, making this material notoriously difficult to classify and date. Nationally, few sites have been excavated on a scale sufficient to provide a statistically meaningful sample for analysis with results of more general application. Fortunately, Mucking can provide just such an analysis for Essex, and here Hamerow (1993, 27-31) identified one, highly significant, chronological trend: that the earliest 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery (fifth-sixth century) employed a wide range of mineral-based tempers, while the later pottery (sixth-seventh century) was almost exclusively tempered with organic ('grass') material. Despite caveats that may be expressed elsewhere (see Blinkhorn 1997; Tipper 2000, 306), this chronological distinction does appear to be genuine. In addition, Hamerow also suggested the application of a coarse slip – *Schlicklung* – to the exterior of vessels was a largely fifth-century practice (Hamerow 1993, 35).

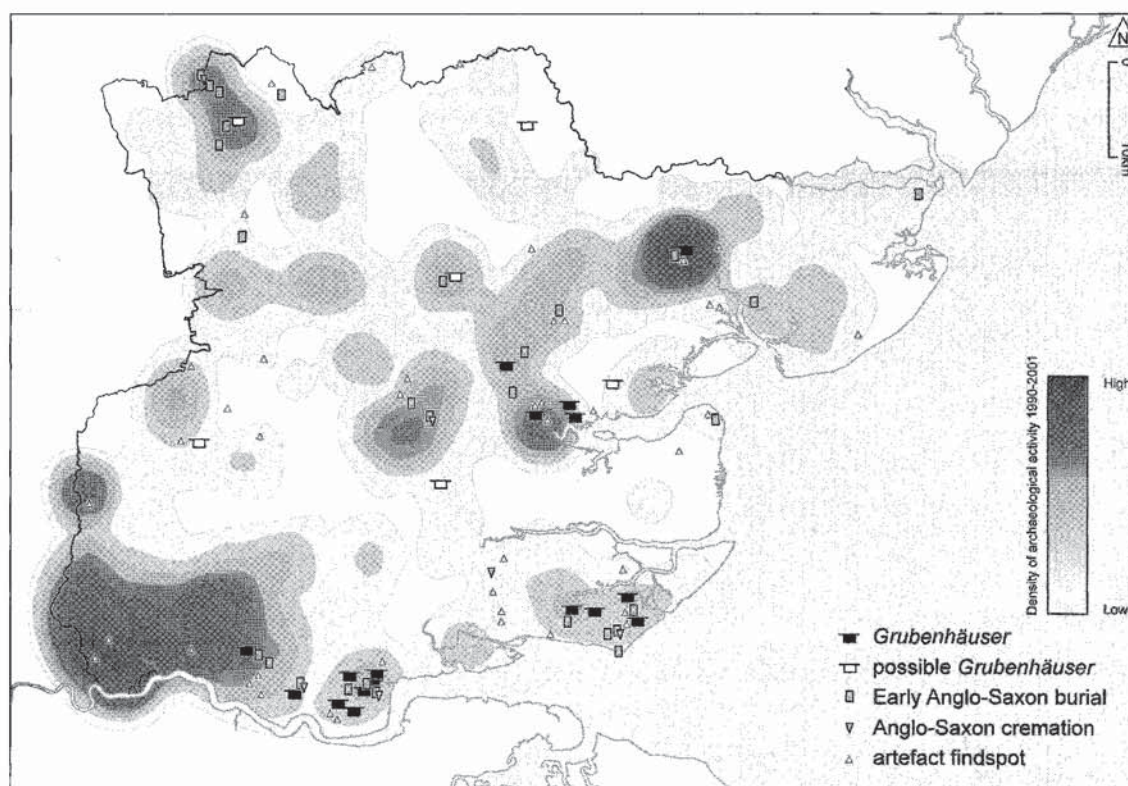


Figure 14: The distribution of 'Anglo-Saxon' cemeteries and Grubenhäuser in relation to the intensity of recent fieldwork.

More definite evidence for the presence of 'Anglo-Saxon' settlers (actual, descendant or adoptive) are those settlements that have produced excavated or identified *Grubenhäuser* – or at least a significant volume of cultural material – and the furnished cemeteries. The updated distribution of these sites demonstrates that they were largely restricted to coastal and estuarine locations, with the cemeteries of the Cambridgeshire region extending into north-west Essex. While in the past this could be said to reflect the skewed emphasis of fieldwork, (see figure 5) would demonstrate that this is no longer the case. Extensive, development-led interventions are now being undertaken in the more rural interior of the county – most notably at Stansted Airport and along the new A120 – which have yet to uncover any such direct evidence.

Yet it is clear that these areas were inhabited, as the landscape evidence alone would suggest (see below), and these interventions have demonstrated that 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery, albeit often in very small quantities, is much more common than perhaps hitherto appreciated. While *Schlicklung*-treated pottery has a distribution that is almost as restricted as that of the *Grubenhäuser*, mineral-tempered pottery is found on sites across the county (fig. 1). Appearing in quantity on overtly 'Anglo-Saxon' sites like Mucking, this pottery is more often gleaned from residual or unstratified contexts, commonly on or near Roman sites. As stated, 34% of Roman sites occupied in the fourth century have produced 'Anglo-Saxon'

pottery (see fig. 3), and given the unremarkable appearance of most of this material, it seems likely that this is an underestimate. However, it must also be the case that the initial visibility of the Roman material biases the recovery and therefore the interpretation of the 'Anglo-Saxon' material.

It is clear that these sites do not all share a common settlement history, as on some sites, like Great Hols Farm and Rivenhall, the majority of the 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery is mineral-tempered, suggesting that occupation ceased before organic-tempering became commonplace. Elsewhere, the first 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery to appear is organic-tempered, which may indicate these sites were temporarily abandoned, or else populated by a community only now crossing the threshold of visibility through their use of material culture. If the former is the case, then we would have to reexamine 'Anglo-Saxon' perceptions of the 'Romano-British' settlement landscape, and what psychological implications the reoccupation of abandoned or decayed settlements could have. In the latter case, it would suggest that the Romano-British population was selectively employing elements of 'Anglo-Saxon' material culture, and this would imply the relationship between these two (or more) ethnic groups was not always entirely hostile. In either case, it hints very strongly that the settlement landscape of the fifth, sixth and even seventh centuries was derived from, and heavily influenced by, the late fourth century.

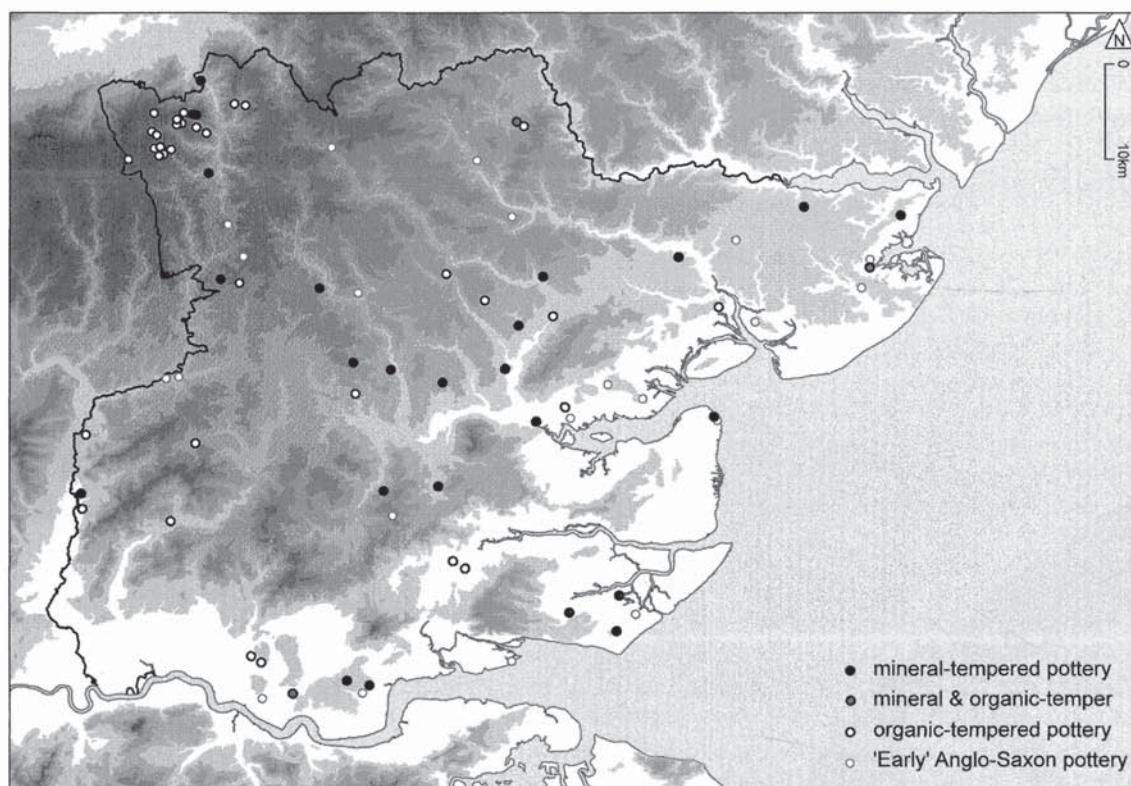


Figure 15: The distribution of Romano-British sites producing 'Anglo-Saxon' pottery, by fabric type.

As stated, subsequent developments are much more difficult to follow, and this is largely because Ipswich Ware was not widely employed, despite the proximity of its primary kilns. Yet the use of this early wheel-thrown pottery was not restricted to high status sites alone (*contra* Newman 1999, 41), even if the only two sites – Barking Abbey and Wicken Bonhunt – that have produced more than a handful of sherds were demonstrably high-status settlements. It would seem that the vast bulk of the populace simply continued to use chronological indeterminate organic-tempered wares, or else abandoned the use of pottery altogether. Only from the eleventh century, and with the emergence of Early Medieval Ware, does the use of pottery become widespread once again. That this absence does not reflect a significant contraction of settlement is demonstrated by the even distribution of seventh- and eighth-century coins (*sceattas*) and the landscape evidence considered below.

In the east Midlands and East Anglia, this period is seen as critical in the evolution of the medieval settlement pattern (e.g. Moreland 2000), yet for these reasons it remains very poorly understood in Essex. In the East Midlands, settlement nucleation and the development of common open fields seems to have occurred in the tenth and eleventh centuries (associated with Late Saxon pottery) (Hall 1995, 125-39; Shaw 1993). In East Anglia, nascent nucleations developed slightly earlier (associated with Middle Saxon pottery), but many shrank or were abandoned in favour of greenside locations during the tenth and subsequent centuries. Essex does not appear to have

followed either of these trajectories. Nucleated settlements do not dominate the settlement pattern outside the north-east around Saffron Walden, and while greenside settlement is relatively common, the research carried out by the East Anglian Fieldsystems Project would suggest that the fieldsystems of Essex are very different to those of Norfolk (Martin *undated*), where the majority of fieldwalking has taken place.

Williamson's work in north-east Essex demonstrated that Roman, early medieval, medieval and modern settlements tended to cluster in the same kinds of places: along the valley bottom and on the edge of the clayland plateau (Williamson 1984, 217). A similar pattern may be observed in the south of the county at Thurrock, and here it can be shown that the edge of the gravel terrace overlooking the Thames was favoured by both early medieval and medieval settlements, and was not, as earlier writers have assumed, necessarily marginal (e.g. Arnold & Wardle 1981). In both cases the junction between land of differing quality and opportunity was particularly favoured for settlement, irrespective of period, which encouraged and perpetuated essentially linear polyfocal zones of settlement.

Landscape Context

“Much, then, of the work of taming and shaping the landscape by the hungry generations from the Belgae onwards had been lost in weeds, scrub and ruins by the time the Anglo-Saxon colonists arrived...” (Hoskins 1955, 44).

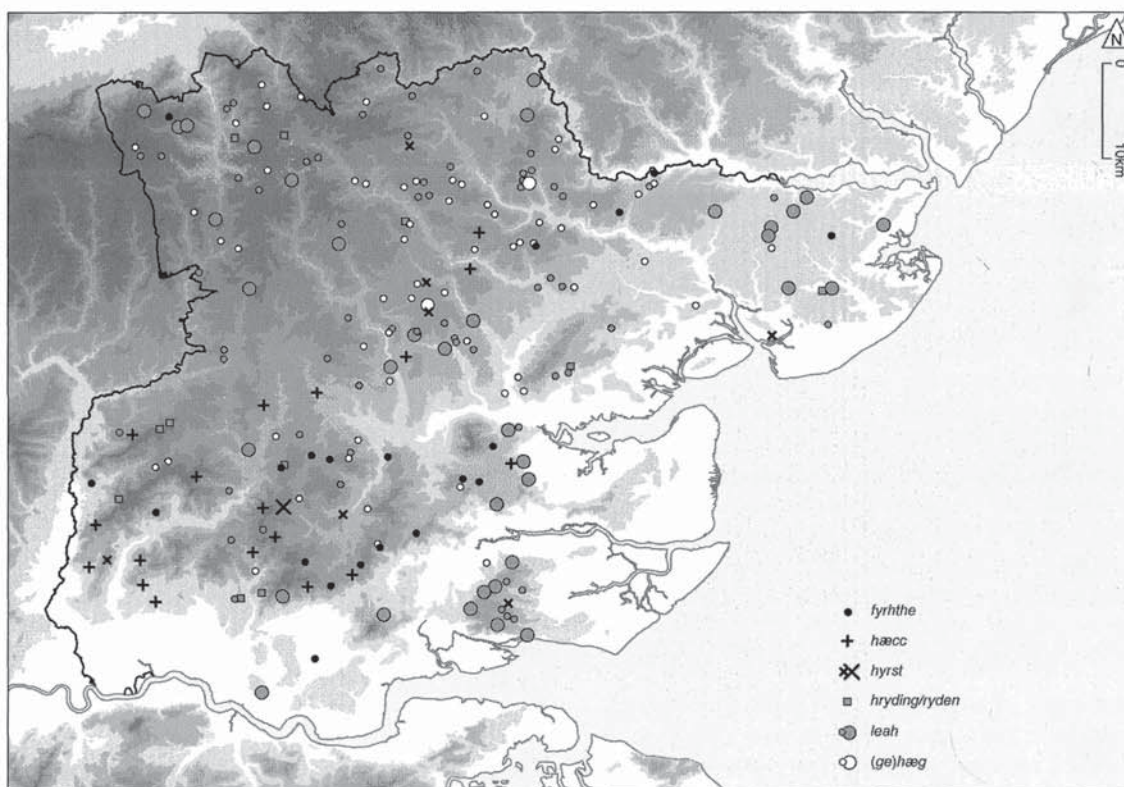


Figure 16: The distribution of woodland-indicative place-names, broken down by category. The larger symbols indicate that a particular example qualifies as a 'major' place-name (i.e. mentioned in the Domesday Book).

While the numerous minor PPG16 interventions can provide us with scattered hints of the larger pattern, and the few larger excavations a more detailed snapshot in the life of individual settlements, the wider settlement landscape can prove more difficult to reconstruct. The landscape itself has frequently been employed as a proxy for settlement in a period when they have proved so difficult to identify. Land readily ‘tumbles down to woodland’ (Rackham 1993, 67–8), so the maintenance of an open landscape, and the survival of ancient fieldscapes, must indicate that a working agricultural landscape was maintained, even if this tells us little about the ethnic origin or perceived identity of the inhabitants. There are three main sources of evidence for the biological character of the early medieval landscape: the palaeoenvironmental record, woodland-indicative place-names and the Domesday Book. Individually beset by caveat, taken together the composite picture is persuasive.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence for Essex is, as for much of lowland England, fairly meagre, and often derived from contexts traditionally regarded as unreliable – either on-site or palaeochannel – and few of these environmental sequences span the whole of the first millennium AD. With this in mind, the pollen and macrofossil evidence appears to demonstrate the landscape remained open, and that cereal cultivation continued unabated, even in the clayland heart of the county at Stansted Airport (see Wiltshire & Murphy 2004). In contrast, the dendrological evidence would indicate that the early fifth century did form a significant tree-growth ‘horizon’ (e.g. Hillam 1981, 37; Tyers *et al.* 1994), but as timber is essentially portable whereas palaeoenvironmental contexts are not, this can tell us little about what was happening in the local environment. Indeed, as woodland can also constitute a sought-after resource, such evidence need not indicate afforestation was an enforced response to demographic change.

If the palaeoenvironmental evidence is more objective, the documentary sources have the advantage of coverage. In any assessment of medieval woodland, landscape historians usually turn to the Domesday Book, and a straightforward interpretation would suggest Essex was, in comparative terms, a heavily wooded county. The Domesday Book is not, however, a straightforward document, and in absolute terms ‘woodland for x swine’ is a singularly imprecise measurement, no matter how exact individual valuations appear to be. What Domesday can say is that in 1066 woodland was not evenly distributed across the county, and that the practice of ‘enclaving’ – where woodland resources were located at some distance to the parent manor – was already important.

The place-name evidence supports these conclusions. Woodland-indicative place-names are not evenly distributed either, and there are notable concentrations – in southwest Essex and on the

Rayleigh Hills, for example – as well as conspicuous absences – as in much of southern and coastal Essex (see fig. 4). Furthermore, such place-names are usually found on the interfluvies where woodland is most commonly encountered today. The differential distribution of the place-names considered, the topographical sensitivity of such labels as argued elsewhere (see Gelling & Cole 2000, xv; Gelling 2000, 7), and the clear difference in status between *leāh* settlements and the rest, strongly suggests the history of exploitation, and the character and date of associated settlement, differed markedly from place to place. The concentration of minor woodland place-names (*fyrhth(e)*, *hæc(c)*, *hyrst* and *ryding*) in the southwest of the county might suggest they are to be associated with more extensive and intercommonable woodlands, while the frequency of *(ge)hæg* place-names in the north would indicate an association with a more defined and limited resource.

These three strands of evidence, taken together, suggest that woodland regeneration is likely to have been a localised rather than general phenomenon. In many areas of the country little more could be said, but Essex is also noted for its ‘planned’ and ‘regular’ fieldscapes – particularly in Thurrock, south-east Essex and Dengie – which have been argued to be Roman or earlier in date (e.g. Rodwell 1978; 1993). Some of these examples are more convincing than others, but if the high antiquity of these fieldscapes could be proven, it would provide further supporting evidence, as well as have dramatic implications for the character of landuse in succeeding periods.

Conclusion

To conclude, the archaeological evidence from the fourth century indicates that late Roman society in Essex was not simply content to see out its tenure in genteel decline, but that active, if destructive, interest was taken in the ageing monuments that aspired to the trappings of Imperial Rome. The significance of these levelling episodes is difficult to underestimate, and equally enigmatic. The apparently widespread evidence for settlement discontinuity in the post-Roman period would appear to be as much a factor of taphonomic processes and the biased emphasis of fieldwalking as a fair reflection of settlement history. The violence done to rural settlements by post-Roman agriculture enforces our reliance on unstratified or residual artefactual evidence, and can only emphasize the care which must be taken with interpretations of this ethnically charged cultural material. The surprisingly widespread distribution of ‘Anglo-Saxon’ pottery might suggest that significant demographic change had occurred. However, early burial and explicitly ‘Anglo-Saxon’ structural evidence (the *Grubenhäuser*) is effectively restricted to a number of coastal and estuarine enclaves, and, taken alongside the appearance of Anglo-Saxon pottery on Romano-British sites, would suggest that it was a post-Roman Romano-British population that

had access to, and selectively employed, this material. In addition, the appearance of vegetable-tempered pottery on Roman sites would suggest that earlier post-Roman occupation was effectively aceramic or indistinguishable from late Roman occupation, as we might expect. The observed dearth of Middle and Late Saxon pottery in Essex, together with the fragility of Early Saxon pottery, makes it difficult to speak of changing settlement patterns *per se*, but in both Thurrock and north-west Essex, rather than occupy marginal, light-soil locations, early medieval settlement can be shown to favour much the same kinds of location as previous and subsequent occupation.

In terms of the historic fieldscape, the palaeoenvironmental, documentary and place-name evidence indicates that widespread woodland regeneration in the post-Roman period did not occur. By the tenth century, parish boundary morphology and the practice of enclaving suggest that woodland resources were already unevenly distributed and limited in extent. The place-name evidence would indicate this reflected a pattern of some antiquity, and it seems likely that if woodland regeneration had occurred, it was local and limited to those areas – the wooded hills of southern Essex and interfluvial areas generally – where woodland has historically been concentrated. The antiquity of fieldscapes in Essex remains open to dispute, and as long as the excavated sample is reliant on development-led investigation, it will remain equivocal.

On this basis, we need no longer rely on the absence to evidence to demonstrate that, as Mortimer Wheeler framed it in 1935, the transition from Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England in this area was one of *mergence* rather than *submergence*. The later Kingdom of the East Saxons comprised both Anglo-Saxon and British elements, and owed much to the Romano-British past in terms of its landscape of settlements and fields. However, this conclusion has to be viewed in both its local and regional context, and the experience of the *Adventus Saxonum* in other areas might have been very different.

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Landscape, Settlement and Society: Wiltshire in the First Millennium AD

Dr Simon Draper, Durham University

My doctoral research, supervised by Professor Matthew Johnson and Dr Chris Gerrard, focussed on the county of Wiltshire from the Roman period to c. 1100, considering the key themes of landscape, settlement and society and using a combination of archaeological, topographical and historical evidence. Particular emphasis was also given to place-names, which were used to locate Romano-British and early medieval settlements and inform us about the British survival in the post-Roman period.

Early chapters tackle the transition between the Roman and Early Saxon periods, challenging current theories on the decline of Roman Britain and the Anglo-Saxon *adventus*. Subsequent chapters examine the evidence for early medieval territorial and ecclesiastical structure in Wiltshire, in addition to the Anglo-Saxon farming landscape. There is also detailed consideration of the origins of the medieval settlement pattern and a discussion of the relationship between settlements and the ranks of Anglo-Saxon society. Two substantial appendices were created mostly from SMR records, listing details of all known Romano-British settlements and early medieval material remains in the county.

In relation to medieval settlement in Wiltshire, my findings are fourfold. Firstly, there is significant archaeological evidence (in the form of organic-tempered pottery) for widespread continuity of occupation on Romano-British settlements into the post-Roman period. Secondly, there is good reason to believe that many chalk downland settlements were abandoned in favour of riverine locations in the Early-Middle Saxon period. Thirdly, continuity of settlement from the Roman to the medieval periods is most likely to have occurred in one of three 'nodal' locations – beside a river crossing, on a spring-line or on a low hill surrounded by marshland. Lastly, there is some evidence to suggest that village nucleation and planning may have occurred on a handful of royal estate centres as early as the 8th century.

A book based on my thesis will be published, under the title *Landscape, Settlement and Society in Roman and Early Medieval Wiltshire*, by British Archaeological Reports in Autumn 2006. s.a.draper@durham.ac.uk

Discovery and Excavation 2005

BEDFORDSHIRE

Kempston, 1 King William Road (TL 0245 4739)

A small open area excavation, bounded by residential properties in King William Road and the High Street, was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Late Saxon ditches, seen in previous evaluation work, appeared to have formed part of a plot boundary system. Further gullies, pits and postholes also suggest that the area was situated to the rear of tenement plots. At the eastern extent of the site the metalled surface of the old lane linking Kempston High Street to the corn mill adjacent to the River Great Ouse was seen.

By the late 10th century Kempston was at the centre of an estate held by Earl Tostig, which was later seized by Edward the Confessor. Excavation at Kempston Manor, to the east of the site, has identified evidence of probable high-status, manorial Saxo-Norman structures.

Anthony Maull

BERKSHIRE

Milestone Cottage, Basingstoke Road, Three Mile Cross, near Reading (SU 7150 6825)

Evaluation trenching by Thames Valley Archaeological Services revealed a gully, potentially dated by a few very abraded sherds of medieval pottery, probably a property boundary.

Remenham, Park Place (SU 785 825)

On behalf of Park Place Estates and Aspect Park Golf Course Ltd, M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation within the estate around the manor house that was constructed in 1719 and rebuilt after a fire in 1870. A medieval gully and post-medieval chalk track or road were identified and a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered, together with a single fragment of Early-Middle Saxon ceramic. Iron Age and Roman remains were also identified.

Michael Wood

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Hanslope, Park Road (SP 8062 4664)

An evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on 0.49ha of land on the edge of the village between a field with remnant medieval ridge and furrow and the road.

There were small gullies and ditches with pottery dating from the 12th to 15th centuries. Another small gully was dated to the 18th to 19th centuries. An

earthwork feature, which may have been a former pond, was sampled but it had been infilled with modern rubbish. The site contained no evidence relating to the medieval and post-medieval expansion of the village.

There were more features present than would be expected adjacent to the medieval field system and the area may therefore be associated with the nearby plot with pond-like features and small allotment type enclosures to the rear.

Ben Pears

Lavendon, 7 High Street (SP 91697 53671)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundations for a new extension. No pre-modern archaeological deposits were observed; a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a modern deposit.

Richard Ivens

North Crawley, 3 Chequers Lane (SP 92775 44660)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified.

Richard Ivens

Weston Underwood, Pevers Cottage, Pevers Lane (SP 86440 50425)

An archaeological 'strip and sample' excavation was carried out during removal of topsoil and other groundworks for a new extension and detached garage/parking space. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified.

Richard Ivens

Wolverton, Wolverton Mill (SP 802 409)

An archaeological excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in advance of housing development by Bloor Homes.

Two early/middle Saxon grubenhäuser were superseded by a large ditched enclosure of middle Saxon date, which was remodelled several times. Two associated field systems and other isolated early-middle Saxon features included several potential structures and cess pits.

In the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period a series of boundary ditches enclosing small plots were established. Some plots contained small post-built timber buildings and there were also associated pits, a well, cess pits and a malting or drying oven. One pit

contained a smith's hoard of iron spears, nails and some slag, as well as remains of three lava querns and two bone combs. During the 13th and 14th centuries, there was continuity of the major boundary systems, although the minor sub-divisions were modified. Several large rubbish pits were presumably related to occupation of buildings within the medieval village, now deserted, which lay to the north of the excavated area. The excavated plots appear to have lain at the margin of the larger settlement, and the coincidence of the boundaries spanning the late Saxon to post-medieval periods along the southern side of a modern track that bisected the site, shows that the late Saxon plots lay at the origin of the layout of a village plan that had at least partially survived to the present day.

Alex Thorne

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Castor, Peterborough, Castor Primary School (TL 1246 9843)

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks carried out by Chris Moulis and Steve Williams of Archaeological Project Services for Peterborough City Council uncovered post-medieval pits and residual Roman building materials indicating nearby structures of that date

Neil Parker

Huntingdon, Hartford Road TL 240 716

This excavation lay immediately to the north of St Mary's Church at the junction of the High Street and Hartford Road, in the centre of medieval Huntingdon. Deeply stratified archaeological remains were present (up to c. 3.50m deep), the upper metre of deposits having been removed by severe modern truncation. The earliest occupation dated to the late 10th or 11th century and consisted of possible post-pits, large quarries and cess pits, lying to the south of a boundary which crossed the site and ran perpendicular to the High Street. Activity dating from the 12th to early 15th centuries included wells and quarries, cess pits, small kilns or ovens and a series of large, square pits, some being wood-lined.

The large quantities of finds include pottery spanning the Late Saxon to medieval transition. The animal, bird and fish bone is particularly well-preserved. The large charred plant macrofossil assemblage includes lentils, peas, flax, grapes and the earliest known record of garlic in the region. Substantial quantities of metalworking waste indicate that the smith in question was working principally with iron but also with copper and lead.

R Mortimer, Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit

Huntingdon, Nos 11-12 High Street TL 2413 7155

This site is in a potentially significant location within the historic town, to the north of the castle, and was thought to lie on the projected course of the pre-AD 1322 High Street. Deep, well-preserved archaeological deposits were identified to a depth of approximately 3m below the current ground surface. The earliest deposits identified probably date to the Norman/post-Conquest period. These appear to be the fills of a large, possibly linear, feature, which may have been levelled off or deliberately infilled in the 12th or early 13th century. A thick layer containing 13th-century pottery, animal bone and other occupation debris was sealed by remnants of a cobbled surface and truncated by possible early post-medieval post-holes. The route of the pre-1322 High Street was not identified, but may lie to the north or south of the evaluation trench. Artefacts and ecofacts from the site are characteristic of domestic rubbish disposal, providing evidence for small scale (secondary) butchery, cooking and crop-processing.

R Clarke, Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit

Huntingdon, Model Laundry Site TL 2432 7177

This site, occupying an area of c.0.43ha, is located on the northern side of Huntingdon town centre; the River Great Ouse lies c.150m to the east. The earliest remains found are a small assemblage of flints characteristic of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic (10,000BC-3000BC) technology. A probable Romano-British ditch ran along the southern limit of excavation; this was truncated to the north by a series of ditches or channels which may date between the Romano-British and Late Saxon periods. An existing natural channel here may have flowed down to the river to the east and was deliberately recut and/or managed, probably in the Romano-British period. As well as acting as a significant boundary, the channel(s) may have increased the area of dry ground in this marginal location, when pressure on land increased as a result of population growth in the town to the south.

The main channels had been largely infilled by the Saxo-Norman period, when encroachment of occupation northwards is indicated by the presence of pits and ditches. Such activity continued into the medieval period, with evidence for butchery and tanning, alongside domestic waste from a variety of features and deposits, including cess and rubbish pits. Medieval flooding was represented by alluvial deposits. During the later medieval and post-medieval periods this area of the town evidently reverted to pasture, confirming evidence from cartographic and documentary sources. In the late 19th century, the Model Laundry was constructed.

R Clarke, Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit

Huntingdon, Royal Oak Passage

TL 2367 7186

A prehistoric ditch was aligned parallel with the modern High Street (Ermine Street). This ditch is very similar in form, alignment and position to another example found at the Walden House excavations (see below). The evaluation also produced a significant quantity of medieval remains, consisting of pits and postholes typical of urban backyard activity. No evidence of settlement fronting onto Royal Oak Passage was found; rather, it appears to have been oriented on the High Street to the east. Considerable evidence for post-medieval activity comprised pits and postholes, overlain by a thick layer of 18th-century garden soil.

S Hickling, Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit

Huntingdon, Walden House

TL 2372 71808

Archaeological remains were uncovered between February and April 2005 during investigations in advance of the Huntingdon Town Centre Modernisation Scheme. The redevelopment site forms a roughly triangular area of approximately 2.1ha, bounded by George Street to the north, Market Hill and Prince's Street to the east, Walden Road to the west and the Bus Station to the south.

This major redevelopment has afforded an opportunity to investigate significant parts of this historic town: the recent excavation to the rear of Walden House is the first of several sites to be investigated as part of the modernisation scheme. The earliest finds are two Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowheads found in a Bronze Age ditch. Small quantities of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered, although the main period of occupation spanned the mid-12th to mid-14th centuries when the town was at its most prosperous. A range of features characteristic of urban settlement included dense zones of pitting and quarrying in addition to wells, post-holes, cobbled surfaces and ditched property boundaries. A number of ovens along the eastern edge of the site may have been associated with brewing rather than baking.

Evidence of urban contraction in the later medieval period was represented by an extensive cultivation or levelling layer and generally lower levels of activity. This supports documentary evidence which suggests that Huntingdon suffered a period of decline from the 14th century onwards. Large fragments of architectural stone, probably originating from a monastic or ecclesiastical building, had been reused in later foundations at the site and may have come from one of Huntingdon's 'lost' medieval churches.

R Clarke, Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit

Huntingdon, Mill Common

TL 5235 2716

The Mill Common Dig was a community-based excavation, forming part of the celebrations of the 800th anniversary of Huntingdon's Charter. Mill Common is a well-known and publicly used open space, with pronounced and clearly visible earthworks. A specific aim of the excavation was to investigate the earthwork bank and ditch of the scheduled monument that runs across the west end of the common (SAM 188) – a large linear feature known as the Bar Dyke which is thought to be of medieval origin. One trench was positioned to investigate two of the later aspects of archaeology on the common: the dating of the ridge and furrow and the location of a WW1 Royal Flying Corps training camp. Two others were placed over features identified by geophysics and a fourth lay above the continuation of the Bar Dyke, outside the scheduled area, where the bank had been removed in antiquity.

Archaeological features included prehistoric ditches, medieval pits and ridge and furrow. The major ditch continued some distance beyond the scheduled area and measured 12m wide and nearly 2.5m deep; the scale of the ditch suggests that this phase may date from the Civil War, when it formed part of the western defences of the town. Predating it was a smaller ditch, 5m wide but only a metre deep. Although undated this is likely to be medieval and may represent the dyke or lane mentioned as the Bar Dyke in 14th-century documents.

R Mortimer, Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit

Littleport, Balancing Lagoon, Highfield Farm

(TL 5544 8650)

An evaluation carried out by J. Kitch of Archaeological Project Services for Cannon Kirk Homes on the lower slopes of the fen island revealed a buried soil and two undated linear gullies.

Jennifer Kitch

Maxey, No. 19 West End Road

TF 1257 0830

This excavation produced evidence of medieval occupation and development in this area of Maxey from the 12th-century onwards. Pits, quarries, postholes, boundary ditches, stone walls and a step well were found, generally representing backyard activity relating to plots fronting onto West End Road. Building types at the site developed from the earliest (12th century) timber constructions, through dry-stone dwarf walls presumably supporting wooden box frames, to the wholly stone and mortar construction of extant No. 19 West End Road (c.1700). The main north to south property boundary lay equidistant from modern property boundaries to the east and west, both of which were c.40m (2 chains) away: many other

modern property boundaries in the village have been found to be at similar distances apart indicating an element of planning which may have commenced in the Norman period. In conjunction with previous sites excavated in the medieval core of Maxey (Willow Brook Farm and the Coalyard) a picture of the modern village's origins and development is now emerging.

S Hickling, Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit

DERBYSHIRE

Calke, Calke Abbey (SK 370 225)

Service trenches between the medieval abbey and village of Calke were monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of the National Trust. Several undated pits and stone-lined drains were recorded. Additionally, buried portions of the ha-ha wall, other brick structures and pits, all of post-medieval date, were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

HAMPSHIRE

Humberside - North East Lincolnshire UA

East Ravendale (TF 2380 9977)

An earthwork survey was undertaken by staff from Archaeological Project Services on the route of a proposed new access road to the school for North East Lincolnshire Council. The remains of medieval cultivation comprising ridge and furrow were recorded. Of particular note was a lynchet that had been disturbed by later terracing and the insertion of a brick built reservoir.

Steven Malone

Thornton Curtis, Thornton Hall Farm, Station Road (TA 0951 1813)

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of an extension to a barn close to the 17th century hall by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Hodson Architects Limited. The removal of the former barns on the site was evidenced by a clearance cut, a levelling layer and a demolition deposit. No artefacts were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Humberside - North Lincolnshire UA

Althorpe, Church Lane (SE 8348 0965)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Mr S. Popplewell during groundworks for a new residential dwelling close to the medieval church. This identified an undated dumped deposit that was

laid to raise ground levels and an undated subsoil towards the southern end of the site. A medieval subsoil noted towards the rear of the site was cut by a post-medieval pit.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Barton Upon Humber, Brigg Road (TA 0312 2182)

An archaeological evaluation was supervised by M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Copperfield Holdings. No archaeological deposits were present on the site, which appeared to have been levelled in the 20th century, and no finds were recovered.

Michael Wood

Crowle, Marsh Road (SE 7660 1265)

Staff from Archaeological Project Services monitored the excavation of reed beds associated with a sewage treatment works on behalf of Severn Trent Water. Prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains had previously been identified in the vicinity. However, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered and finds were limited to a few pieces of 18th-20th century pottery and glass.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Eastoft, Crowle Road (SE 8025 1610)

The groundworks for a new residential dwelling were monitored by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services for Mr J. C. Barth. Two 19th century walls were recorded that correlate to buildings shown on early edition O.S. maps. These walls were sealed by an extensive dumped deposit. Finds included 18th-19th century pottery.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Walkford and Beckley Farm, New Milton (SZ 222 955)

Fieldwalking by Thames Valley Archaeological Services took place over 79ha. Pottery sherds of several periods, but mostly post-medieval, were widely dispersed, and probably the by-product of manuring of fields at various times. Medieval pottery was present across the whole area, but at only around 2 sherds per hectare with no apparent clustering.

LEICESTERSHIRE – Work undertaken by Archaeological Project Services

Cotesbach, Main Street (SP 536 822)

Although in the historic core of the Cotesbach, a watching brief by S. Williams of Archaeological Project Services for Mr and Mrs Haywood did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Rachael Hall

Harby, Green Lane (SK 7496 3101)

Although near the historic core of Harby, a watching brief, carried out for Mr and Mrs Clarke by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services, did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Mark Peachey

Market Harborough, Coventry Road (SP 616 835)

Development in the centre of Market Harborough was monitored by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services for Mrs Logalbo. However, no archaeological remains were revealed.

Tobin Rayner

North Kilworth, Green Lane (SP 616 835)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, for Martyn Jones Associates, in the medieval core of North Kilworth. No archaeological remains were identified but the topsoil was found to lie directly on natural, suggesting the site had been reduced previously.

Tobin Rayner

Shepshed, Church Street (SK 4800 1977)

Development at the historic core of Shepshed was monitored by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services for Walsh Properties Ltd. A probable quarry pit was identified and although undated was sealed by a post-medieval subsoil. Post-medieval dumping and a drystone revetment wall were also recorded. Artefacts of medieval and later date were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Sibson, St. Botolph's Church (SK 3542 0090)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services undertook an evaluation at the medieval church on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. Trenches excavated adjacent to the north and south walls of the chancel revealed an earlier phase of wall foundations, perhaps from a buttress or former chancel. A graveyard soil containing human bones and dated to the post-medieval period, though probably in development since medieval times, and containing pottery and tile of post-medieval date was also recorded.

Gary Taylor

Sileby, Cygnet Close (SK 6050 1522)

Development near to the historic core of Sileby was the subject of a watching brief carried out for Parker, Dodson and Associates by V. Mellor of Archaeological Project Services. No archaeological remains were identified though artefacts of 18th century and later date were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

South Croxton, 32 King's Lane (SK 6900 1002)

On behalf of Mr and Mrs Coombs, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development in the historic village core. However, the investigation revealed only demolition from a recently removed building and a modern boundary wall.

Gary Taylor

Sutton Cheney, Bosworth Road (SK 416 004)

Development close to the medieval parish church was monitored by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services for Wain Builders Ltd. An undated but probably recent pit was revealed together with modern foundations of a former garage.

Neil Parker

LEICESTERSHIRE**Stoke Golding, Park House (SP 397 971)**

Archaeological salvage recording by Warwickshire Museum was carried out during the construction of two new houses on behalf of Mr and Mrs J D Hall. Topsoil stripping uncovered numerous archaeological features, largely medieval in date. Limited excavation was then carried out in order to define and date the exposed features. A series of inter-cutting ditches and gullies may have formed successive property boundaries to the rear of the street frontage. Pottery possibly dating from as early as the 10th century up to the 15th century came from these features, whilst a number of later pits dated from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Over 500 sherds of pottery were recovered in total. A silver penny of King Eadgar (959-975) was recovered from the ditch which contained what appeared to be the earliest pottery. Service trenches running up to the current property boundary with the main street uncovered the foundations of a stone wall in three different places. This probably represents the boundary wall of the large country house shown on a map of 1637 as 'The Mansion House'. The Park which is also marked on this map has given its name to the current Park House, which appears to contain some fragmentary remains of the earlier building.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

LINCOLNSHIRE**Amber Hill, Sutterton Drove (TF 2326 4714)**

A watching brief was maintained by R. Evans of Archaeological Project Services during groundworks for a new detached house and garage on behalf of Mr and Mrs Pearce. However, only land drains were recorded and no artefacts were found.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Ancaster, Bairds Mill (SK 9865 4432)

M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services undertook a watching brief during the excavation of geotechnical test pits. A 19th century mill or malthouse was exposed during the investigations and layers associated with its demolition were recorded.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Aunsby, Old Rectory (TF 0450 3881)

R. Evans of Archaeological Project Services monitored the groundworks for a new dwelling on behalf of Manthorpe Construction Limited. The watching brief identified an undated pit, ditch and subsoil. A modern ditch and drain were also noted. No finds were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Authorpe, Scrub Lane (TF 3880 8070 – TF 4050 8086)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during the groundworks associated with a water main replacement on behalf of Anglian Water Services Limited. Two pits were revealed but were undated as no artefacts were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Bicker, High Street (TF 2248 3768)

A watching brief was maintained during groundworks for a new residential development by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Dalesk Limited. The investigations revealed a number of undated features and deposits that included pits, ditches, postholes, a slot and dumped deposits. Medieval remains comprised a ditch and two pits. An assemblage of fired clay perhaps derived from salt manufacture or a hearth was retrieved from a probable medieval pit. Post-medieval features included a gully, pits and brick-built soakaways.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Boston, 21 Norfolk Street (TF 3252 4453)

V. Mellor supervised an archaeological evaluation for Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Fieldview Homes Limited. The site was some 30m from the Bar Ditch, the medieval town boundary. A sequence of 13th-15th century dumped deposits that included evidence of cereal processing was identified. Small quantities of medieval artefacts were recovered, suggesting that the site was peripheral to any medieval domestic activity. Post-medieval remains consisted of two 17th-18th century domestic refuse pits, an outbuilding and culvert, and a sequence of external surfaces and associated make-up deposits. The contrasting abundance of post-medieval to earlier artefacts reflects the expansion of Boston into this area from the 17th century onwards.

Victoria Mellor

Boston, South End, Skirbeck Road (TF 3305 4363)

Monitoring of borehole excavations was undertaken by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services for the Longhurst Housing Association Limited. The limited nature of these excavations rendered comparison with deposits encountered in an earlier evaluation of the site difficult. However a series of alluvial flooding episodes within creeks was established as having taken place during the medieval period. A small quantity of medieval and post-medieval artefacts were also recovered. A subsequent watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of service trenches. These investigations revealed a section of brick-built cellar associated with the 15th century scheduled Hussey Tower and dumped deposits.

Thomas Bradley-Lovekin, Tobin Rayner

Bourne, Bedhouse Bank (TF 1030 1980)

Groundworks for a new residential dwelling were monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Mr and Mrs Stringer. The watching brief revealed a sequence of undated and modern deposits. This comprised demolition material and a make-up deposit intended to raise ground levels, a land drain and ditch. Finds included 19th and 20th century pottery.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Burgh Le Marsh, A158 Bypass (TF 4727 6708 – TF 5162 6471)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services in advance of the construction of the by-pass. The majority of the trial trenches were devoid of any archaeological features, although a number of undated drainage and/or boundary ditches were found towards the west of the scheme. One trench yielded a pit and ditch of post-medieval date. Trenches towards the eastern end of the scheme yielded few features, which perhaps indicates that any such remains may lie at greater depths below the marine clays.

Mark Williams

Corby Glen, The Green (SK 9989 2482)

Although close to the historic core of the village, a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Cray Builders Ltd did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Cowbit, Stonegate (TF 2645 1807)

S. Williams of Archaeological Project Services monitored the groundworks for a new residential dwelling for Mr D. Swallow. No archaeological features and/or deposits were encountered and no artefacts were retrieved during these investigations.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Crowland, 36 The Chase (TF 2456 1044)

A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during the groundworks for a new extension on behalf of A. M. Strickland Builders Limited. No archaeological features were identified and a single sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Crowland, 46 West Street (TF 2380 1014)

The groundworks for a new extension were monitored by R. Evans of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Mr S. Butler. The watching brief identified an undated subsoil or the fill of a large feature. A post-medieval pit was also recorded. Finds included a small quantity of post-medieval pottery.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Fishtoft, Fishtoft Manor (TF 3640 4235)

An archaeological evaluation was supervised by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services in advance of a residential development on behalf of KMB Limited. The evaluation identified four Middle Saxon postholes that were sealed by a buried soil, which were in turn truncated by a Mid-Late Saxon ditch and gully. These features were in turn sealed by a further buried soil that was truncated by further Mid-Late Saxon features. 11th-12th century features comprising a pit and a broad linear cut were also noted. Post medieval remains were found over the whole site including a large pond, a series of pits and a ditch.

Rachael Hall

Fleet Hargate, Fleet Road (TF 3945 2509)

An archaeological watching brief was maintained by staff of Archaeological Project Services during groundworks for a new residential development on behalf of Broadgate Homes. No archaeological features were identified and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered.

Thomas Bradley-Lovekin

Folkingham, Churchfields Road (TF 0679 3370)

Staff from Archaeological Project Services maintained a watching brief during groundworks for a new residential development on behalf of HPC (Homes) Limited. An undated boundary or drainage ditch was recorded along the western edge of the site. Finds retrieved included a range of 11th – 20th century pottery with a single residual sherd of Roman pottery.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Gedney, Lowgate (TF 4097 2453)

Staff from Archaeological Project Services maintained a watching brief during the groundworks for a large residential development on behalf of D. Brown (Building Contractors) Limited. The investigations revealed a sequence of undated, medieval and post-medieval drainage and/or boundary ditches. One undated linear may have been Anglo-Saxon in origin. Their close proximity with the local medieval manor and chapel suggests that they may have been associated.

Tobin Rayner

Gedney Hill, 4 North Road (TF 3399 1153)

A watching brief was carried out by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services for a new extension at Willow Tree Cottage for Mr M. Knox. The investigations identified a modern soakaway. No other archaeological features were found. Finds comprised 19th-20th century pottery and glass.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Hacconby, Main Street (TF 1047 2534)

Groundworks for a new residential development were monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of JTM Developments Limited. No archaeological remains were identified though pottery of 18th-20th century date was found.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Hanthorpe, Edenham Road (TF 08439 23803)

M. Nugent of Archaeological Project Services undertook a watching brief during groundworks for a new residential development for Mr and Mrs North. The investigations identified a series of undated dumped deposits. No finds were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Harrowby to Aswarby Pipeline, Scott Willoughby-Osbournby (TF 0532 3755-TF 0585 3779 and TF 0659 3878-TF 0671 3889)

A programme of archaeological fieldwalking was undertaken on sections of this pipeline by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Anglian Water Services Limited. In the Scott Willoughby area, thin and mainly even scatters of mostly post-medieval artefacts were noted with a concentration of tile near the church. It was concluded that the pipeline did not traverse the Scott Willoughby DMV. Near Osbournby, a dense scatter of post-medieval brick, tile and drain, some of it noticeably overfired, was identified and may indicate the presence of post-medieval brick/tile/drain manufacturing activity in the vicinity.

Gary Taylor

Keelby, 61 Yarborough Road (TA 160 161)

A. Russell of Archaeological Project Services supervised an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a residential development on behalf of Hodson Architects. No archaeological features and/or deposits were identified and no finds were retrieved during the investigations.

Rachael Hall

Kingerby, St. Peter's Church (TF 0573 9285)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services during drainage works. However due to the shallow nature of the groundworks, only the current topsoil was noted. No finds were identified.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Kirkstead, Abbey Farm (TF 1927 6180)

A watching brief was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Witham Trading Co Ltd. No archaeological features were identified. Finds comprised two fragments of 19th-20th century roof tile.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without, Bridge End Road and Saltersford Road (SK 9282 3465)

A watching brief was maintained by G. Taylor of Archaeological Project Services during the groundworks for a new residential development on behalf of I. Crowther and C. Payne. This identified two possible medieval or post-medieval ditches and a gully. A sequence of land drainage features dated to the post-medieval and modern periods were also identified.

Aaron Clements

Long Sutton, Bull Hotel (TF 431 229)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by R. Evans of Archaeological Project Services for Korvin Developments Limited. Post-medieval and modern activity associated with former yards and working areas at the rear of the hotel were identified including a probable property boundary.

Robert Evans

Osbournby, Laurels Farm, West Road (TF 0661 3796)

A watching brief was undertaken by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services during the groundworks for a new residential development on behalf of Clive Wicks Associates. The investigations located a single undated pit. No finds were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Roughton, 154 Horncastle Road (TF 2226 6457)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by staff of Archaeological Project Services during groundworks for a new residential development on behalf of Stonewall Homes Limited. The investigations revealed a sequence of undated deposits possibly associated with former agricultural activity on the site, as well as a modern refuse pit.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Ruskington, Holme Lane (TF 0848 5094)

V. Mellor of Archaeological Project Services supervised an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr Steven Coy. The investigations identified several undated small pits or possible postholes. A possible linear feature was also noted, which may have been a medieval plough furrow. Finds included a sherd of residual Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon pottery and late medieval roof tile.

Victoria Mellor

Sleaford, Carre's Grammar School, Northgate (TF 0683 4320)

A watching brief was carried out by staff from Archaeological Project Services during groundworks for a new recreational centre on behalf of HBS. Although no archaeological features or deposits were identified finds of medieval tile and pottery as well as a small assemblage of 17th-18th century pottery, tile and glass were made.

Carol Allen

South Kyme, Hume Arms (TF 1728 4970)

The groundworks for a new residential development were monitored by staff from Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Crofton Construction Limited. The watching brief identified a number of undated pits, ditches, a gully and a posthole. Medieval features consisted of four pits and a post-medieval pit and ditch were also identified. These features would have been situated within the rear of properties that fronted onto the High Street.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Swineshead, Abbey Road/South Street (TF 2381 4016)

A watching brief was carried out by staff from Archaeological Project Services during the groundworks for a new residential development for Mowbray and Son Limited. Post-medieval demolition, and rubble deposits were observed with the likelihood that earlier archaeological deposits would occur at greater depths.

Robert Evans

Toynton All Saints, 68 Main Road (TF 3943 6345)

Groundworks for a new dwelling were monitored by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services of behalf of Mr A. Stainton. The investigations identified a single medieval pit that contained pottery wasters and kiln debris. A dumped deposit was also noted. The pottery was manufactured locally in the village.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

West Torrington, Yew Tree Cottage, West Barkwith Road (TF 1366 8204)

A watching brief was maintained during groundworks for a new extension by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services for Mr and Mrs Larder. The investigations found an undated pit and ditch, along with a modern pit.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

NORFOLK**Castle Acre, Land adjacent to 7, Bailey Street (TG 8182 1506)**

An evaluation carried out by V. Mellor of Archaeological Project Services for Parworth Developments Limited revealed several undated postholes from an earlier building and a brick floor and walls that were probably the remains of a post-medieval public house.

Victoria Mellor

Grimston, 26 Ashwicken Road (TF 7052 2168)

A watching brief, undertaken by M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services, during groundworks for a dwelling within the core of the medieval pottery production area of Grimston found no archaeological features.

Michael Wood

Mileham, Park Farm (TF 9227 1974)

An excavation on the site of a proposed pumping station at Park Farm was supervised by M. Peachey of Archaeological Project Services for Anglian Water. The work revealed gullies and pits of 12th to 14th century date that probably represented part of a farmyard.

Mark Peachey

Stratton Strawless, Mansom Plantation (TG 204 201)

A rapid identification survey was carried out by D. Drury of Archaeological Project Services for Picees Investments Limited to further evaluate the archaeological potential of the site following a desk-based assessment. A number of embanked ditches, hollows, pits and ponds were recorded, largely reflecting former quarrying of the area. A subsequent evaluation, supervised by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services, identified a 19th-20th century plantation enclosure ditch, along with evidence of agricultural activity pre-dating the plantation in the form of two small plough furrows.

Denise Drury and Rachael Hall

Trunch, North Walsham Road (TG 2873 3473)

R. Evans of Archaeological Project Services carried out an archaeological evaluation for Broadland Housing Association Limited. Six trenches were excavated on land close to the medieval core of the village but no archaeological features were revealed.

Robert Evans

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**Ashton, Church of St Michael and All Angels (SP 76525 49975)**

Two Test Pits (each 1.5 x 1.5m) were hand-excavated at locations on the proposed line of a new service trench on the N side of St Michael's Church, Ashton. Despite several modern disturbances evidence of both Roman and medieval activity was revealed.

Richard Ivens

Barton Seagrave, Land to rear of 76-82 Polwell Lane (SP 8877 7643)

A continuous watching brief was maintained during the stripping of the footprints of two bungalows and associated driveways, etc., followed by continuous observation of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the two bungalows. No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were observed.

Richard Ivens

Cranford St John, Church of St John the Baptist (SP 92730 77095)

A watching brief was carried out during the replacement of part of the floor of the N aisle. A blocked burial niche was exposed but both niche and floor area proved to have suffered considerable 19th-century disturbance. A further watching brief was maintained during the construction of a new path in the churchyard but no pre-modern deposits were disturbed.

Richard Ivens

Deanshanger, Lodore, 1 The Green (SP 7630 3955)

A continuous watching brief was maintained during the stripping of the footprint of a new block of flats and associated parking areas in the garden of Lodore, 1 The Green, Deanshanger. This work was followed by continuous monitoring of the excavation of the foundation and service trenches for the block of flats.

An extensive stone structure was identified at the SW corner and to the S of the new block of flats. This appeared to be the remains of a modern garden terrace, presumably related to the early twentieth century occupation of Lodore.

Several undated pits were recorded during the digging of the foundations for the new block of flats. These are thought likely to be modern garden features, for the planting/removal of bushes small trees, etc.

One (machine shattered) sherd of late medieval Potterspury-type (Northamptonshire Type Series 329) ware was recovered from modern topsoil.

No other pre-modern deposits or artefacts were observed.

Richard Ivens

East Haddon, Church of St Mary, the Virgin (SP 6675 6815)

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a service trench across the West Tower and western part of the churchyard. No pre-modern remains were revealed, aside from the foundations of the west tower itself.

Richard Ivens

Easton Neston, Showsley, Showsley Grounds Farmyard (SP 7175 5077)

Five evaluation trenches (87.5 square metres) were excavated within the yards of Showsley Farmyard in advance of a 'barn conversion' development. No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were discovered during the course of the trial trench evaluation. Every trench showed clear evidence of substantial clearance of the site prior to the laying of the existing, modern, farmyard surfaces. Evidence of numerous service trenches traversing the farmyards was also discovered. A small number of modern features associated with the site's use as a farmyard were recorded. Given the level of modern disturbance and the lack of any pre-modern (20th century) deposits it seems almost certain that no extensive archaeological remains could survive within the application site of the medieval nunnery of Sewardsey.

Richard Ivens

Flore, All Saints Church (SP 64200 59865)

A watching brief was carried out during the mechanical excavation of services trenches across the churchyard. A number of grave cuts were noted and a single sherd of Early – Middle Saxon pottery was recovered from one grave. Some human remains were observed. Minor details of the foundations of the N nave wall were also recorded.

Richard Ivens

Glendon, Coach House Barns (SP 8457 8135)

Northamptonshire Archaeology uncovered a number of human burials during building works as part of the conversion of coach house barns to a domestic dwelling.

Seven of the ten burials were excavated, the remaining three being left *in situ*. There were four adults, two males and two females, three infants below the age of five and one juvenile, together with disarticulated bones from infants and adults. The burials almost certainly relate to the now lost medieval village and church of Glendon. Further work at the site was subsequently carried out as part of a *Time Team* programme.

Joe Prentice

Thrapston and Islip, Flood Alleviation Scheme (SP 9909 7853)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services for Jackson Civil Engineering during groundworks for a flood alleviation scheme alongside the River Nene. A lost medieval chapel or hermitage was thought possibly to be located in the vicinity and a hoard of Roman pewter had also been found nearby. However, the investigation only identified a series of modern levelling deposits and landscaping features, overlying a sequence of alluvial layers.

Aaron Clements

Yardley Gobion, 7 Grafton Road (SP 7663 4491)

An Archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for the construction of a new extension. No archaeological features pre-dating the nineteenth century were observed. Four small, unstratified, sherds of medieval Potterspury/Yardley Gobion pottery were recovered.

Richard Ivens

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Hickling, The Old School House, Main Street (SK 691 289)

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks in the historic core of Hickling was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Glencoe Homes. A probably post-medieval boundary ditch was revealed and undated dumped deposits were recorded.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Newark, Cartergate (SK 799 537)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Newark and Sherwood District Council during repaving work. However, only modern deposits were encountered.

Neil Parker

Newark, 98, Lincoln Road (SK 810 551)

An archaeological watching brief carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services during groundworks revealed a 15th/16th century linear feature and a number of undated features. The earliest pottery found during the stripping was of 12th century date.

Carol Allen

Scrooby, Alpha House, Manor Road (SK 6527 9080)

A watching brief carried out by Aaron Clements of Archaeological Project Services for Mrs S. Philipson revealed only modern made ground.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

OXFORDSHIRE

Land off Priory Road, Bicester (SP 5840 1290)

Evaluation trenching by Thames Valley Archaeological Services revealed a number of ditches, two of which can be dated to the late 11th or 12th century and three others, undated, could equally be of this date. Part of the site was waterlogged and lay under deep alluvial silts, presumably it would

have been too wet for occupation or farming in the medieval period too, and these ditches may mark the edge of the area under active exploitation.

Parsonage Farm, Sparsholt Road, Childrey (SU 3605 8760)

A watching brief by Thames Valley Archaeological Services revealed two ditches, one of which was backfilled between the 12th and 14th centuries.

The Cottage, High Street, Aston near Bampton (SP 3397 0306)

A single medieval ditch was discovered by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in evaluation trenching; a second ditch, tentatively thought to be Roman, could also be medieval

The Hazels, Church Road, Cholsey (SU 5848 8711)

Boundary features, ditches and gullies, revealed by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, possibly date from the late 11th century or early 12th, but are, however, likely to be associated with a ditch more certainly dated to the 15th century. All of these features were aligned perpendicular to Church Road and indicate that the layout of the village here is at least this old. The site is just opposite the parish church, and adjacent to an earthwork enclosure containing the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.

RUTLAND

Empingham, Mill Lane (SK 9577 0883)

A watching brief, by A. Clements of Archaeological Project Services for Mr T. Porter, was undertaken on the eastern edge of the village. However, no archaeological remains were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Great Casterton, Home Farm Yard, Old Great North Road (TF 000 088)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief at the southern edge of the Roman town and in an area where medieval and Roman remains, including a burial, had previously been found. However, no archaeological remains were revealed. Additionally, G. Taylor of APS undertook a programme of building recording prior to alteration and demolition of structures, some of which are 18th century and listed Grade II. A house, barns and other agricultural ranges, probably mainly of 18th century date, were examined. A range of buildings was added to one of the barns in the late 18th or early 19th century and this, too, was subsequently extended. Additions, used as livestock sheds or for storage,

were also made to the house. Major changes had been made to the complex in the latter part of the 20th century, with most of the original openings on the house frontage being replaced by car-port doors and parts of the upper storey and internal walls removed.

Tom Bradley-Lovekin and Gary Taylor

Langham, Melton Road (SK 842 109)

Development in the medieval core of the village was monitored on behalf of Rutland Planning by M. Woods of Archaeological Project Services. No archaeological remains were identified though post-medieval artefacts were recovered.

Neil Parker

Lyddington, Bedehouse (SP 875 971)

On behalf of Mrs A. Lawson, a watching brief was carried out by M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services during development near to the medieval church and bedehouse. However, no archaeological remains were identified.

Neil Parker

Oakham, Mill Street (SK 8614 0862)

F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief for M. Potts, builder and contractor, during development in the historic core of Oakham. Two undated pits were revealed, together with a group of post-medieval refuse pits and a ditch. A large quantity of 18th century and later artefacts was recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Oakham, Oakham School (SK 861 088)

Prior to its demolition, R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services carried out a photographic survey of the Hodges Building at Oakham School on behalf of Pick Everard. This recording indicated that the Hodges Building was a 2-storey mock-Tudor style construction. One main phase of construction in the mid 19th century was noted, though there was evidence of extensive modifications carried out in the later 20th century.

Rachel Hall

Stretton, Stretton Road (SK 9465 1535)

An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Showman's Land Development Co. Ltd in an area of prehistoric remains alongside the Ermine Street Roman road. A Saxo-Norman pit containing substantial parts of a Stamford ware pitcher and a quantity of iron smelting slag was revealed. This feature may have been a tapping pit associated with

iron smelting furnaces. Although such furnaces did not survive, areas of burnt or heat-affected deposits may indicate their location. A dumped deposit containing further slag was also identified and although undated is thought to be contemporary with the Saxo-Norman pit. Remnants of ridge and furrow of probable medieval date was recorded, together with a post-medieval ditch and parts of a small stone structure, perhaps a field shelter, also of the post-medieval period.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Tinwell, Casterton Lane (TF 0055 0645)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services maintained a watching brief, on behalf of Hereward Homes Ltd, during development in the medieval heart of Tinwell. A medieval pit was recorded together with an undated ditch. A post-medieval ditch and a soakaway were also noted. Artefacts of medieval to recent date were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Whissendine, Hortons Lane (SK 8306 1410)

Development on the southern edge of the village was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Burrough Property Services Ltd but no archaeological remains were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Whissendine, Main Street (SK 828 123 – SK 831 143)

Replacement of sewers through the centre of Whissendine was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Pick Everard Ltd on behalf of Severn Trent Water. A sequence of road construction layers of probable modern date was identified but no earlier archaeological remains were revealed.

Aaron Clements

SOMERSET

Abbey School, Glastonbury, ST 4984 3873

An archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on land to the rear of Abbey School, Glastonbury, Somerset in advance of a residential development. The evaluation revealed four shallow ditches dating to the medieval period together with four, probably contemporary, postholes. The site is located on the boundary between the Levels and the high ground of Glastonbury town and there was evidence that ground level had been raised during the medieval period. Eight sub-rectangular pits had been excavated into this made ground and although their function remains unclear at present, it is possible that they were

associated with an industrial process such as tanning. Two smaller pits and a posthole appeared to have been contemporary with these pits. Two ditches, probably drainage ditches were stratigraphically later than these features but contained pottery of a similar date.

Laurent Coleman and Jonathan Hart, Cotswold Archaeology

SUFFOLK

Brandon, Lignacite Works (TL 787 872)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief for Lignacite Ltd during groundworks near to medieval and earlier remains. No obvious medieval features were identified though prehistoric remains were revealed.

Neville Hall

SURREY

Manor Park, Guildford (SU 970 405)

Several phases of work by Thames Valley Archaeological Services covering around 60 hectares have revealed a complex landscape, mainly prehistoric, and an almost total lack of medieval evidence. The site lies in the south-west corner of the former royal park, created by Henry II, which functioned as a deer park until 1624. The moated site of the royal hunting lodge or manor house, demolished not long before 1607, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The absence particularly of medieval finds across several seasons' work on the site, except in the immediate vicinity of the moated manor, when all other periods from the Mesolithic onwards are better represented, can presumably be explained by the site's emparked status.

WARWICKSHIRE

Pillerton Priors, Sandpit Farm (SP 294 476)

Observation of groundworks for a new cattle shed within the medieval settlement on behalf of Mr N Gardener revealed fragmentary stone footings for one or two medieval buildings and an associated stone surface. Pottery dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries was recovered from the surface, but the majority was 13th/14th-century, suggesting that this part of the village was deserted during the 15th century.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Rugby, 56 Lower Street, Hillmorton (SP 5368 7396)

An evaluation by Warwickshire Museum involving three trial trenches on behalf of Cawston Grange Developments Ltd in February 2005, on a site within

the medieval settlement of Morton, revealed a probable medieval boundary ditch, containing 13th/14th-century pottery, parallel to the street frontage. An undated posthole and the remains of 19th-century cottages with associated 19th- and 20th-century pits were also revealed.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Tanworth-in-Arden, Moat House, Salter Street, Hockley Heath (SP 122 742)

Archaeological observation by Warwickshire Museum was carried out on behalf of Mr J Campbell during the excavation of foundation trenches for house and garage extensions. The house (Grade II listed) is partly timber framed and dates from the 17th to 19th centuries. It lies within a partially water-filled moat with attached fishpond (Scheduled Ancient Monument Number 30006). The excavation for the extension to the existing house revealed a layer containing numerous pebbles and occasional sherds of 12th- to 15th-century pottery. This was probably part of a medieval external yard surface and proves that the moat island was occupied during this period. No remains of archaeological significance were found in the garage extension foundation trenches.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Wasperton, Manor Farm (SP 2641 5882)

Observation of groundworks for an extension to the Grade II* Listed 14th-century aisled hall with 18th-century additions within the medieval village revealed three pits, one containing 12th/13th-century pottery, the others undated. Three further 13th- to 15th-century sherds and three later 17th-century clay tobacco pipe bowls, including one with 'mulberry' decoration, came from the topsoil.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

WEST MIDLANDS

Coventry, Seven Stars Industrial Estate, Wheler Road, Pinley (SP 352 774)

A single trial trench within the area of the former medieval settlement of Pinley on behalf of Coventry Prototype Panels Ltd recovered evidence for medieval occupation in the form of pebble yard surfaces and boundary ditches with 13th/14th-century pottery. The medieval manor house was not identified though a fragment of glazed medieval floor tile suggests its possible presence in the general vicinity.

Chris Jones and Cathy Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

YORKSHIRE, WEST

Scholes Lodge Farm, Leeds, SE 3815 3645

Archaeological Services WYAS undertook an excavation at Scholes Lodge Farm during January and February 2006. The site lies in the area of a 14th century manorial site and the remains of a moat and a linear ditch can be seen as earthworks in an adjacent field. The ditch, which probably represented an enclosure or boundary, terminated within the excavation area, and excavation demonstrated that it was likely to have been in use between the 11th and 16th centuries. On the western or external side of the ditch was evidence of a medieval structure comprising a number of large postholes and possible beam-slots, together with associated drainage ditches and gullies. Pottery evidence suggests that this structure dated to the mid 11th to mid 13th century with utilitarian wares of typical West Yorkshire Gritty wares represented (Cumberpatch 2006). Other medieval remains identified on the site comprised pits, latrine pits, a gully and small postholes on the eastern (internal) side of the enclosure ditch. Assessment of the pottery indicates a hiatus in activity on the site between the late 13th and late 15th centuries, with only some residual material from the later 15th or 16th century evident. The remaining pottery assemblage was predominantly of later 17th or 18th century wares (*ibid*), associated with a large post-medieval farm building with associated well and stone built drainage system on the site.

Reference:

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SCOTLAND

Kings Inch Castle and Elderslie House, Renfrew (NS 514 675)

E. Hindmarch, for AOC Archaeology Group, undertook an archaeological evaluation and excavation of archaeological remains prior to the development of Braehead southern sites between August and November 2005. Following the discovery of the remains of the 18th century Elderslie House during the evaluation, excavation was carried out to reveal the basement floor plan. A programme of targeted evaluation was also undertaken in order to locate any remains associated with the former Kings Inch Castle, putatively located within the vicinity. The excavation of the building remains of Elderslie House located structural features that may be interpreted as those of the 15th century Inch Castle, effectively incorporated into the foundations of the west wing of the house.

Select Bibliography of Works on Medieval Rural Settlement 2005

Compiled by Mark Page

This list includes books and articles on British rural settlement and landscape between the fifth century and the fifteenth, published in 2005, together with anything which seems to have been omitted from previous bibliographies. Any omissions may be sent to Dr M. Page, Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR, or to mrp15@le.ac.uk, for inclusion in next year's list.

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Membership Changes 2005

Recent changes are set out below. Members are asked to send any changes of address, corrections, information etc. to Dr R E Glasscock (Treasurer, M.S.R.G) at St.John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP.

New Members 2005

E CASSON-DU MONT
The National School of Forestry
University of Central Lancashire
Penrith Campus
Newton Rigg
Penrith
Cumbria CA11 0AH

DR T FINAN
6604 Winnebago St.,
St Louis
MO 63109, USA

DR R GODDARD,
School of History
Lenton Grove
University Park
Nottingham NG7 2RD

MRS C HAWKINS
11 Barley Court
Station Street
Saffron Walden
Essex CB11 3HG

DR J R HUNN
8 Cavalier Court
Chesham Road
Berkhampstead HP4 3AL

MR J P MYNOTT
Appletrees
Delvin End
Sible Hedingham
Essex CO9 3LN

MR M PEARSON
Primrose Cottage
Catmere End
Saffron Walden
Essex CB11 4XG

MS C L PERRIN
16 Pebworth Road
Harrow
Greater London HA1 3UD

MRS E POPESCU
65 Tennyson Place
Ely
Cambs CB6 3WF

MR T R TURBIN
38 Short Croft
Kelvedon Hatch
Brentwood
Essex CM15 0BS

DR H WILLMOTT
Dept of Archaeology
University of Sheffield
Northgate House
West Street
Sheffield S1 4ET

Deceased

PROF M W BERESFORD (Leeds)
Hon Vice-President

MRS M HIGHAM (Clitheroe)

Resignations

J AYLETT (Dartmouth)
P CLAYDON (Wolverhampton)
O JESSOP (Sheffield)
D J MAYES (Churchdown, Glos)
H MAYOH (Keighley)

D M PALLISER (Harrogate)
J E SELLERS (Chelmsford)
T M SHAW (Coalbrookdale)
J J B WOOD (Bolton-le-Sands)

Information wanted: current addresses not known

M R EDDY (was in Walmer)
N FAULKNER (was in London)

D J GRIFFITHS (was in Grimsby)
D J SMITH (was in Norwich)

Lapsed (and therefore reluctantly struck off)

M W ATKIN
C F BELAM
T CLARKE
R D CRAMP
N DARBY
R F HARTLEY
I HOSKIN

S KEMP
P McLOUGHLIN
R MORTIMER
P MOTTRAM
I PICKERING
C SHEPHERD
R WEST

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP**
Registered Charity No 801634

Objectives

The objective of the Group is the advancement of public education through the promotion of interdisciplinary involvement in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data relating to the history, geography and archaeology of medieval rural settlement.

Trustees Address

Dr M Gardiner (President) School of Geosciences, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 INN Northern Ireland

C N Christie (Secretary) Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester LE1 7RH

Dr R E Glasscock (Treasurer) St John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP

Ms C Lewis (Editor) Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge CB2 3DZ

Review of activity during the year

The Group's activities (policymaking, conferences and publication) have continued as before. The range of interests and issues is reflected in the content of the accompanying Report 20 covering the year 2005-2006.

Result of the year

The excess of receipts over payments amounted to £3071 (2005; deficit of £1964).

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain reserves at a level to enable the long term and other research projects to be sustained in the foreseeable future.

Grant making policy

The charity makes grants towards research project sand other bodies involved in similar areas of education and research in respect of medieval settlement.

Investments policy

The charity's funds are invested in National Savings deposits that are regarded as a safe liquid investment with an adequate return, and suitable for a small charity.

Risk policy

The trustees have reviewed the major risks facing the charity and presently conclude that no specific action is required.

RE Glasscock, Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO
THE TRUSTEES OF MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 January 2006 which are set out on the following page.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the account. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act;
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with accounting requirements of the Act
- have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P Boyd BA ACA
Chartered Accountant
8 Hinton Avenue
Cambridge
CB1 7AS

12 July 2006

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Registered Charity No 801634

GENERAL FUNDS – RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Financial Year ended 31 January 2006

	2005-06	2004-05		2005-06	2004-05
RECEIPTS	£	£	PAYMENTS	£	£
<u>Donation, legacies and other similar sources</u>			<u>Charitable Payments</u>		
Donations	15	67	Research Grants	478	994
Income tax recovered through gift aid	1,475	1,108	Malton Museum	300	—
			Student Bursary	200	—
			J. G. Hurst Memorial Prize	200	—
			Ruralia 2007	600	—
<u>Operating activities to further the charity's objects</u>			<u>Charitable Activity</u>		
Subscriptions	6,491	4,522	Annual Report printing	2,775	3,557
Publication Sales	244	146	Conference expenses	2,606	69
Conference receipts	2,121	1,138	Whittlewood Project	—	1,000
AGM & Seminar receipts	—	70	<u>Management and administration</u>		
<u>Investment Income Receipts</u>			Secretarial & Committee expenses	447	305
Current account interest	2	1	AGM & Seminar expenses	81	275
Deposit account interest	1,551	2,438	Hire of rooms	209	—
			CBA Affiliation Fees	81	81
			Postage	771	1,196
			Refund of Subscriptions paid in error	80	—
			New Leaflet	—	49
	<u>11,899</u>	<u>9,490</u>		<u>8,828</u>	<u>7,526</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Balance of receipts over payments	3,071	1,964	Current bank account	676	1,382
Balance Brought forward	38,918	36,954	Nat Savings deposit account	41,313	41,093
	<u>41,989</u>	<u>38,918</u>	Creditors		(3,557)
				<u>41,989</u>	<u>38,918</u>

Note 1 Accounting policies

Historical Cost Convention

The Receipts and Payments account and Statement of assets and Liabilities are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Stocks of Publications

Stocks of Publications are not valued or included in the Statement of assets and liabilities

Note 2 Funds

All funds of the charity are unrestricted.

